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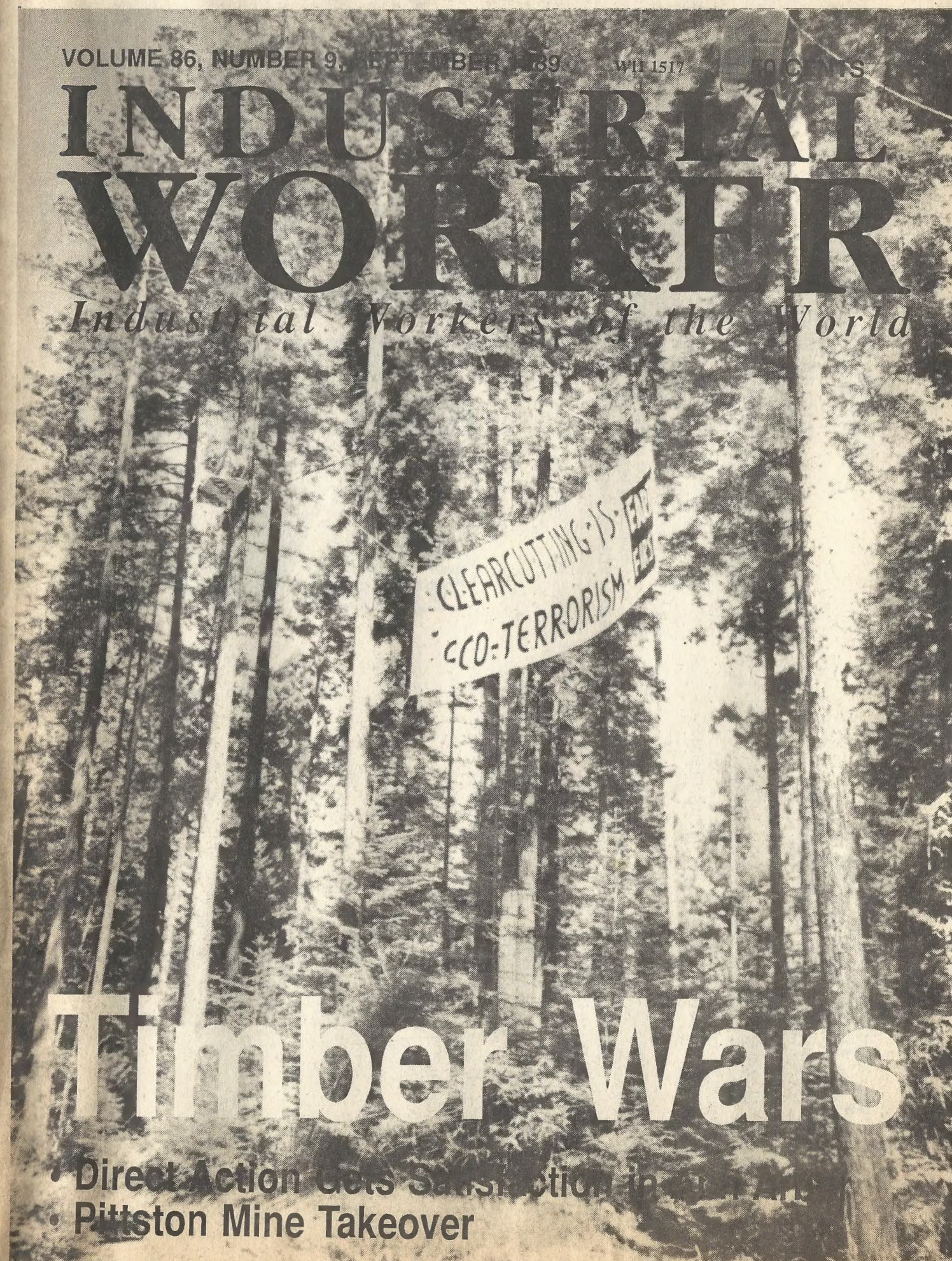
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INDUSTRIAL WORKER

Industrial Workers of the World



Timber Wars

- Direct Action Gets Satisfaction in 4th Area
- Pittston Mine Takeover

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INDUSTRIAL WORKER

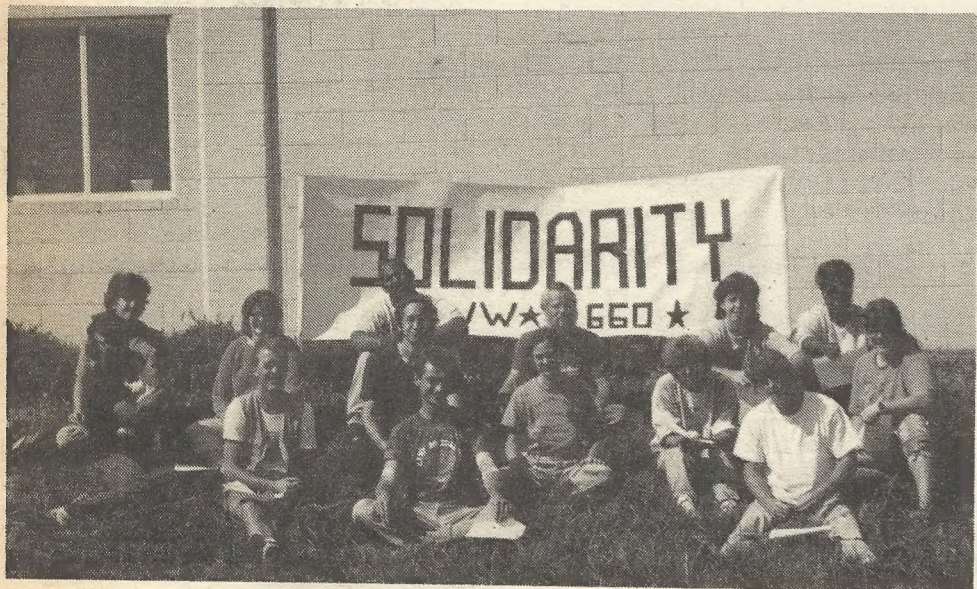
Industrial Workers of the World



VOLUME # 86, NUMBER 10, WH 1517

October 1989

50 cents



Direct Action Gets Satisfaction in Ann Arbor

The IWW membership at People's Wherehouse in Ann Arbor, Michigan is stepping up efforts to protect their contract. On Sunday September 17 the job branch negotiators Mark Kaufmann and Einar Kvaran attended the Board of Directors meeting of the Michigan Federation of Food Cooperatives (MFFC — which owns the Wherehouse) to present the unions demands for good faith negotiations in the face of five and a half months of stalling and bad faith from the negotiators representing the MFFC board. During those past months numerous attempts at intimidation as well as violations of labor law have been committed by the management at Peoples Wherehouse, both in negotiations and on the shop floor. Until now the workers

have exhibited an unwarranted measure of patience.

The union representatives expressed the branch members resolve to defend their rights to fair negotiations and their intent to file unfair labor practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board if a resolution is not reached. The contract expires on October 1. The Wobs here realize that the labor board will not win their struggle for them. Protracted direct action, almost certainly, offers the only solution. However, pressing the case with the NLRB will give a larger measure of protection to the workers engaging in "concerted actions".

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Mine Take-over Stops Production

Denver Wobs Launch Phone-in Against Bad Media Coverage

At 4:25 on September 4, ninety nine miners and one minister, all Pittston stockholders, walked into Pittston's main mine number three production plant and occupied it. They brought a halt to the scab-labor coal production. According to Jim Hicks, a miner at the UMWA Camp Solidarity near Lebanon Virginia, the miners "went as stockholders." "They gave a statement that they were stockholders at Pittston. They wanted to check and see what the problems were, when they got inside they investigated and took over."

One spokeswoman from Joe Corocan's office at nearby regional UMWA headquarters explained at the time: "They are in there to reaffirm the union's strategy of non-violence and to protect their investment. They are seeking mechanisms to resolve this dispute and they are looking for some sign of Pittston's willingness to bargain in good faith."

Three to four thousand supporters gathered in the entrances outside of the mine to block access to the plant. These supporters kept the state police from getting in and making arrests. By Wednesday September 4, 450 state police had gathered among the crowds and they gave a 7:00 pm deadline for the miners to leave without arrest. The miners stayed, and the crowd gave them the protection they needed. At 9:00 the miners left tri-

umphant, two and a half hours after their deadline. One miner contacted at District 28 headquarters on the day after the walk out explained "We feel like it was a victory. They were going to put us in jail." Miner Jim Carroll told the IW, "Basically we felt we had made our point. The purpose of going in was in the context of a non-violent protest."

Where was the Media? When Baby Jessica fell into the well two years ago, the US was treated to hours of live media coverage. When miners take over a mine in an even more gripping saga, the national media virtually shut it out.

Outraged that neither national or local media were covering the mine take-over, Wobblies in Colorado organized a phone-in to the Denver Post, the Rocky Mountain News, and the Daily Camera. Told that the story wasn't of "local interest", callers responded that these newspapers had covered the Siberian mine strike, the rise of Solidarity in Poland and should damn well cover this story of solidarity and courage in the United States. Over 100 people called in, eight other unions were contacted in order to involve them as well. Gary Cox, of the Denver-Boulder IWW branch said that the media "are angry. They're tired of hearing about it here." The phone in "let them know that some people are concerned."

Timber Wars

Footloose Wobs Urgently Needed in Northern California

"You fucking commie hippies, I'll kill you all!" A shotgun blast went off and the Earth First!ers scattered. What started as a peaceful logging road blockade had turned violent when a logger sped his truck through our picket line and swerved it towards the demonstrators. The loggers also grabbed and smashed an Earth First!er's camera and, for no apparent reason, punched a 50-year old protester in the face, breaking her nose.

The environmental battle in the Pacific Northwest has reached such a level of intensity that the press now refers to it as the Timber Wars. At stake is the survival of one of the nation's last great forest ecosystems. Our adversaries are giant corporations — Louisiana Pacific, Georgia Pacific, and Maxxam in northern California, where I live, joined by Boise Cascade and Weyerhaeuser in Oregon and Washington.

These companies are dropping trees at a furious pace, clogging our roads no less than 18 hours a day, with a virtual swarm of logging trucks. Even old timers are shocked at the pace and scope of today's strip-logging, ranging from 1000-year old redwoods, one tree trunk filling an entire logging tuck, to six-inch diameter baby trees that are chipped up for the pulp-mills and particle-board plants.

One-hundred-forty years ago the county I live in was primeval redwood forest. At the current rate of logging, there will be NO marketable trees left here in 22 years. Louisiana Pacific chairman Harry Merlo put it this way in a recent newspaper interview: "It always annoys me to leave anyone on the ground. We don't log to a 10-inch top, we don't log to an 8-inch top or a 6-inch top. We log to infinity. It's out there, it's ours, and we want it all. Now."

So the battle lines are drawn. On one side are the environmentalists, ranging from the big-money groups like Wilderness Society and Sierra Club to the radical Earth First!ers and local mountain people fighting the front line battles in the woods. Tactics being used include tree-sitting, logging road blockading, and bulldozer dismantling, as well as the more traditional lawsuits and lobbying.

On the other side are the big corporations and the local kulaks who do their bidding. Tactics used by them have included falling trees into demonstrators, suing protestors for punitive damages (and winning), buying politicians, and even attempting to ban the teaching at a local elementary school of a Dr. Suess book, The Lorax, which the timber companies say portrays logging in a bad light.

Position of the Workers

But what about the timber workers? Where do they fit into this scenario? Their true interest lies with the environmentalists, because, of course, when the trees are gone

the jobs will be gone too. Logging is listed by the US Labor Department as the most dangerous job in the US, yet the current speed-up has some loggers and millworkers working 10 or more hours a day, six days a week.

Clearcutting is the most environmentally devastating logging method, and also the least labor-intensive. In the long run, the only way to save timber jobs in our area is to change over to sustained yield logging, where logs can only be taken in a manner and at a rate that doesn't destroy the forest. This is exactly what the environmentalists are asking for.

Yet in spite of all this, those timber workers who are organized at all have been organized by the companies AGAINST the environmentalists. There are a few noteworthy exceptions, which I'll discuss later, but by and large timber workers around here are either doing the companies' dirty work or keeping their mouths shut.

A good example of this is the spotted owl campaign. Scientists and environmentalists have been trying to get the owl listed as an endangered species, as 90-95% of its habitat, the old growth forest, has already been annihilated. The timber companies have responded with a viscous campaign promot-

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Correspondence

One Sailor Mutinys

Dear Industrial Worker,

Please begin my one-year subscription with the next available issue. I am a member of the Sailors' Union of the Pacific, and also the Inland Boatmen's Union (marine division of IALW); both historically progressive unions, now growing more and more stagnant due to impotent leadership and submission to the reactionary AF of L/CIO.

There is a growing sentiment within the rank and file that our gains and our very livelihoods will disappear if action is not taken now. To this end, I am getting into positions and attempting to educate my brothers and sisters as they are educating me.

Many workers, sailors, mates and engineers, now believe that the most likely solution is in industry-wide organization, and a union (not like the trade union) concerned with hiring its members out and keeping them working, but IN ADDITION to that, a union (like the IWW) to co-ordinate and advance the militant cause of all workers (skilled or not) world-wide.

More and more talk in the corporate strategy sessions is directed towards GLOBAL issues; Nationalism has already been abandoned by the employers, and we, unfortunately, again need to play catch-up.

Let's abandon petty infighting and power struggles for overpaid Union Official jobs and concentrate on the real issues: integrity, pride, control of our own lives, and a future for our children.

C.D.

British Section to IWW?

Dear Fellow Workers,

We have been interested to read in your pages the progress made by the IWW in unionizing various enterprises run on a co-operative basis in the USA and Canada.

In Britain, there is a great revival of interest in co-operative ideals, partly as a reaction from the ideology of greed,

exploitation, and self-interest promoted by the present government, but partly also from the realization that the old-style Labour movement ideas of nationalization and state-run corporations don't work either, unless transformed to include worker and consumer participation.

The traditional consumer co-operative movement, often held up as an awful example of the perils of democracy at work and having lost half its market share over the last 25 years, still has over 10% of the retail market in the UK, is revamping its operations — hopefully not losing its soul in the process — and is making positive signs of making a comeback.

What is more impressive, however, is the growth in worker co-operatives. These are enterprises owned and controlled, democratically, by the people who work in them. Most are, in addition to being co-ops, common ownerships, where the assets of the firm are indivisible thus discouraging sell-outs for personal gain. From a figure of less than 20 worker co-ops in 1974, there are now nearly 2000. What's more, over 50% of these are union shops, compared with an invisibly small figure for conventional businesses of the same size.

Housing co-ops, also, are showing impressive growth. These also are "common ownerships," with a membership fee of 1 or perhaps 5 pounds, and no capital stake required, or "tenant management" co-ops where the tenants in various city-owned housing developments ("council housing" in British English) run their own estates using democratic participation.

Unlike, we gather, in the USA, there are well used links between the different sorts of co-operative organizations in Britain. The Co-operative Party, which was founded by the retail movement of 1917, and which has always worked with the Labour Party to protect co-operative interests, has used its influence to promote legislation in Parliament to help worker and housing co-ops and credit unions.

While the co-op movement doesn't rely, except for development agencies, on government help, either national or local, it recognizes that government attitudes can help or hinder, and that co-ops have to work inside a legal framework that can be either helpful or difficult. There is a growing feeling within the different sorts of co-ops — even the credit unions which are very few in the UK — that we have to stick together and learn from each other how best to survive and grow in a capitalist world. It's called solidarity!

There are lots of people in all sorts of co-ops now who are working to convince unions, the Labour and Green Parties, and

ordinary working folk that the future has to belong to co-ops. Now that public opinion has seemingly turned environmentalist (look at the results of the European Elections in Britain where the Greens turned out the third largest vote), the opportunities for developing popular awareness of the possibilities of democratic, co-operative, ownership are looking good.

We think that the IWW could play a real part in this. Just as Mrs. Hacksaw has tried to import the nastiest sort of capitalist ideas from the USA, we should be able to use the natural antidote — industrial unionism and the IWW. The British co-operative movements — especially the new worker co-ops — are the natural place to start organizing. There are a few of us here who are interested in starting a British IWW group based on worker co-ops and anyone else interested. If any other reader in Britain is interested, could they please contact us?

Good luck in the work over there — let's keep in touch.

Yours in co-operation and solidarity,

Maggie and Tim Pierce

Sex Trade Workers

Dear Industrial Worker,

I have worked in the sex trade from a young age as a hooker, escort, and stripper, and am one of those working on starting IU 690 [Sex Trade Workers]. I am also a writer, performer, and musician. I am currently paid to be a safe sex educator (IUs 230? 220? 620?).

I enjoyed Jess Grant's article "Greening of the IWW" and have certainly spent many an hour musing over the meaning of "meaningful work" now, and in my utopian future.

Some socialist/marxist identified people are very fond of denouncing the sex trade as harmful and useless because it would not exist in their utopias. I am fond of telling them that I think the sale of food and shelter is absurd and a moral indecency.

May I propose, fellow amateur and professional lovers, that in the Green post-industrial future, sex workers would become amateur lovers, performers, magical arts workers, health service workers, educators and so on. Or perhaps we could simply be ourselves, doing what we're best at at the time, contributing our labour and love as we can.

Until then, let's work to end the violations which are found within the sex industry, but which are certainly not created by it: poverty, ageism, sexism, racism, and that old foe, pure economic exploitation.

May work be play some day,

Tracey Tief

Imagine 50 Billion People on Earth

Dear Industrial Worker,

Since George LaForest professes not to know what a "pro-natalist" is, I will offer a few hints. In the June 1989 Industrial Worker, he states, "The workers of the world can end world hunger any time they wish, even with a greatly increased population." This is what I regard as a full blown, bona-fide pro-natalist statement. What it implies is that there are no limits to growth, that the planet could easily sustain 10 or 20 or 50 billion humans with little additional strain, the only thing that matters is what sort of economic processes are going on at the time.

Not that economic processes aren't important, or that some live in luxury while others starve, and this situation deserves to be challenged at every opportunity. But economic processes are not the only reality, there are ecologic realities and limitations inherent in living on a finite planet that Mr. LaForest is either completely unwilling to face, or simply mocks whenever the subject comes up.

I will ask again: what would the ecological, social and political consequences of 10 to 15 billion people on planet Earth be (the number now projected by the UN for the next century)? According to LaForest, "There is no connection between population and dignity, freedom, and communal self-reliance." He also claims

to see no connection whatever between China's severe overcrowding and the highly centralized and tyrannical bureaucracy there. Apparently some people are of the opinion that "small is beautiful" was just another myth, the current fashionable posture seems to be "large is beautiful", and the more people who are jammed into any given area, the better they will get along and the smoother things will function. Why, we all know this to be true from personal experience, don't we?

The reason I made a point of saying I am not a Malthusian is because, in my view, the term "Malthusian" has been used interchangeably with terms like "racist" and "fascist" in the population debate. It should suffice to say that whatever Malthus said about population two centuries ago is completely outdated today anyhow. There are articulate and well-informed people, such as Lester Brown, who, in his State of the World 1989 report, ascertains that with the current climactic shifts and crop failures worldwide, one additional summer of drought could spell the difference between grain surplus and widespread famine. Lester Brown is not in favor of children starving to death, nor am I, in fact, the very reason we call attention to such phenomenon is so such atrocities can be prevented.

What Brown is trying to say in as plain a language as possible is that overpopulation is a serious problem that further exacerbates existing economic and ecological problems, and that there is not one problem in the world today that is not made worse by human overcrowding, and there is not problem that wouldn't be easier to solve without it. This seems self-evident to me, yet it is astounding the lengths some people will go to to deny this painful truth.

Bill McCormick

Hungarian Literature Fund

To the Editors,

The Hungarian Literature Fund (HLF) was established in 1984 as an independent organization, completely separate from the Union. The HLF's seed money came from bank accounts established by some old Hungarian Wobblers, and later Fred Thompson donated a considerable sum to the HLF. Its purpose was (and is) to support the publication of IWW literature of all sorts. The first activity supported by the HLF was the 1984 Wobbly concert which resulted in the production of the record Rebel Voices which the Union is now selling. The HLF has also undertaken production of the IWW Labor History 'Solidarity Forever' Calenders and has loaned the Union money to cover the reprinting costs of the Constitution, songbooks, and the GOB. Finally the HLF provided money to help Kerr Press reprint the book Rebel Voices, which has been a big seller for the Union and Kerr press as well. The HLF's policy regarding 'profit' has been that 90% of any profits made from a project will be given to the Union.

Presently, the HLF has undertaken the production of the 1990 IWW Labor History Calender, and the Chicago GMB has agreed to sponsor and distribute it. For their efforts, they will receive 20% of the 'profits'. Consequently, for each dollar of profit arising from the calender project, the Union will get 72 cents, the Chicago GMB will get 20 cents and the HLF will get 8 cents. Thus the more calenders that Chicago GMB can sell, the more money the Union will get.

The trustees of the HLF are presently looking at ways to sponsor more literature projects and at ways to get more involved with the various Branches of the Union. The trustees can front funds to Branches and individual Wobblers who have good IWW literature/propaganda projects at hand but no money to carry them out, and would like to get more Branches directly involved in future calender production and distribution.

Fred Lee

Industrial Worker

ONE UNION ONE LABEL
ONE ENEMY



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It should be understood by members and others who read this paper that it is the policy of the IWW to designate as official any articles which have the regular official sanction. Anything not so designated is not official. All other matter contained herein is the mere personal expression of the individual or individuals writing or editing the same.

SUBMISSIONS POLICY

The deadline for copy for each edition is the fifteenth of the month. Important articles arriving after that date, but before we go to press, will be considered for inclusion in that issue, but we cannot guarantee their timely publication after deadline.

All copy should be typed and lines double spaced with 1 inch margins all around.

We encourage letters to the editors in response to articles appearing in the Industrial Worker. We only ask that they be kept brief and to the point and avoid personal invective.

The editorial collective tries to answer correspondence but a lack of time and person power (we do this after our regular working hours) prohibit us from answering all who write. We ask for your patience. Submit your letters and articles early!

Watch next issue for resolutions adopted by the 1989 General Convention

Timber Wars

Continued from Page 1

ing the extinction of the owl so that it would no longer stand in the way of them destroying the last of the old growth. Loggers are the pawns of this game, wearing T-shirts that read: "Save A Logger, Eat An owl" and "Spotted Owl Tastes Like Chicken." Recently a hearing on the owl's status was held in Redding, CA. The timber companies closed the mills and logging operations for the day and bused 5000 workers to the hearing, carrying anti-owl banners and cheering as speakers denounced environmentalists.

Then there's the Nazi-like Yellow Ribbon Campaign, where workers, their families, and local businesses are asked to fly yellow ribbons to show solidarity with management against the environmentalist "threat." It is dangerous not to fly these ribbons in some timber-dependent small towns. And, of course, there's always the few crazies who harass us face to face, like the logger who came to one of our demos last June, revved a live chainsaw in a peaceful crowd, then sucker-punched and floored an Earth First! organizer.

Why have the companies been so successful at misdirecting the workers' anger? One obvious reason is fear — timber workers can see the end of the forest (and their jobs) in northern California as well as we can. Many of these families have lived and worked in small one-job towns for generations. The environmentalists are often relative newcomers, culturally different and easy to vilify.

But there's another reason not often discussed. That is the utter lack of class analysis by virtually all of the environmental groups. I have even had an international Earth First! spokesman tell me that there is no difference between the loggers and the logging companies!



Clearcutting forest at Hazel Gulch, Mendocino County.

I have heard various environmentalists say that working in the woods and mills is not an "honorable" profession, as if the workers have any more control over the corporations' policies (or are gaining any more from them) than we do. As long as people on our side hold these views, it will be easy pickins for the bosses to turn their employees against us.

Potential For Organizing

Into this battleground, our local Earth First! group has tried to bring some class consciousness of the variety prescribed by the Industrial Workers of the World. The first

step is to stop blaming the loggers and millworkers for the destruction of the planet. The timber companies treat them the same way they treat the forest — as objects to exploit for maximum profit. We can't form an alliance by saying, "Hey, worker, come help save the trees." We have to recognize that their working conditions are not separate from or subordinate to the rape of the forest. They are part and parcel of the same thing.

With this in mind, it has been surprisingly easy to make contact with timber workers who don't buy the companies' line. The fact that Earth First! is number one on the companies' hit list doesn't seem to phase anyone, and we have managed to meet good, intelligent, and politically astute people working for all three of the big corporations in our area. They have leaked us inside information which has helped us pull off tree-sits, blockades, etc. without getting caught.

But far more important, we have found that conditions among the workers in the woods and mills could mean the opening of a whole new front in the Timber Wars.

Georgia Pacific (GP) is a good example. Three years ago they cut wages by 25%, saying they needed the money to "modernize" the mill, and would restore the pay scale in the next contract. GP is the only unionized outfit around here, but their union (International Woodworkers of America, AFL-CIO) went right along with the pay cut, just like they go along with everything else the company does. So GP "modernized", eliminating jobs, and raked in record profits with the new low wages. Comes the new contract this year end and, lo and behold, instead of 25% the company offers only a 3% wage increase. The millworkers were furious and voted by an 88% margin to strike. But the union, assisted by a federal "mediator", squashed the strike vote by telling the workers they would all just get fired if they went out. They then eliminated the radicals from the vote counting committee, took a re-vote, and passed the contract.

Earlier this year, a GP millworker was poisoned when a PCB-filled capacitor broke and spilled on his head. The company refused to give the man adequate medical care or close off the area, saying it was just mineral oil. The union, as usual, stuck up for the company. At least eleven more people were contaminated before the workers themselves managed to get OSHA to shut down the plant for 3 days and fine the company \$435,000.

Pacific Lumber is another of the "big three" timber companies in the area. Until recently, it was a locally based, family-run operation paying good wages and amazing benefits. Pacific Lumber also treated the forest better than most and, because of its conservative logging and avoidance of clearcutting, has ended up owning most of the privately-owned old growth redwood that's left in the world.

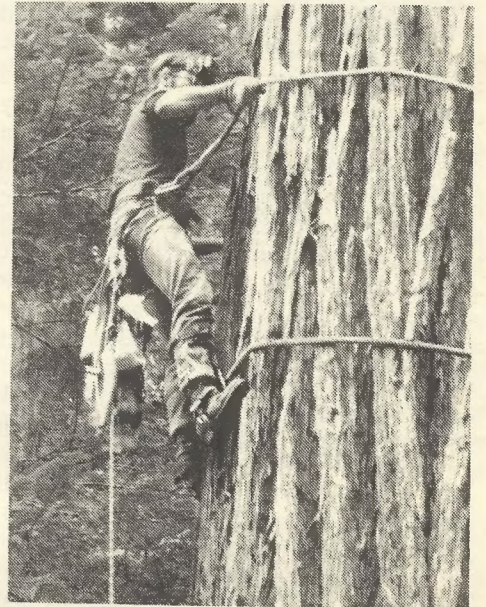
But in 1986, Pacific Lumber was taken over in a leveraged buyout by Maxxam Corp.,

Footloose Wobblies Required in N. California

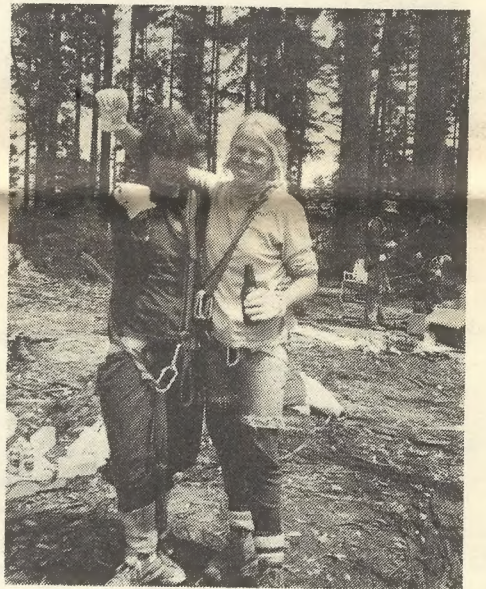
Organizing opportunity to beat bosses & save forest. If you are footloose, but not screw-loose, contact:

IWW-Earth First! Local 1
106 West Standley St.,
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 468-1660

For your own safety, use a fake name and identify yourself with your Red-card number.



Above and below: Protesters are using the same climbing equipment as the loggers.



a high-finance holding company owned by Texas sleazebag Charles Hurwitz. Hurwitz financed the takeover with junk bonds, and is now liquidating the assets of the company to pay off the debt. But in this case, the assets of the company are the last of the ancient redwoods. Hurwitz has tripled the cut, instituting clearcutting, gutted the pension plan, and started working people overtime.

Employees reacted by attempting to organize an ESOP, or Employee Stock Ownership Plan, so that they could buy the company back and protect their jobs and community. As many as 300 people came to an ESOP meeting at its height. But Hurwitz, of course, refused to sell, and the ESOP plan died. Maxxam expected everyone to just shut up and go back to work at that point. Instead, some of the workers started publishing an underground paper called Timberlyin' (as opposed to the company's paper, Timberline), which lampoons management and, while rejecting the misleadership of both the ESOP and the AFL unions, calls on the workers to organize for self-protection.

The other big timber company around here in Louisiana "We Log To Infinity" Pacific (LP). This is absolutely the most crass company in the county. They busted the union in 1983, and the workforce is still scattered and unorganized, but they left a vast pool of resentment. Recently, LP closed down a sawmill which had employed 436 people. They then opened a chipmill nearby which employs 15. Earth First! songwriter Darryl Cherney wrote a song, about the mill closing, called Potter Valley Mill, which

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Oregon Timberworkers Duped by Bosses

Timber is to Oregon what oil is to Texas. Here in southern Oregon, timber accounts for about 60% of manufacturing jobs. More importantly, wood products provide the bulk of otherwise scarce decent wage work. Mill workers average about \$525 per week, while other jobs average a pittance \$300 per week.

The issue of the local timber industry has taken a quantum leap into the mass media. While the media has presented another "cloudy, complex issue," characterized by a sharp conflict of interest between environmentalists and wood-product workers; this seems yet another CLEAR CASE of C-A-P-I-T-A-L OFFENSE (profit squashing fellow workers). The rule of profit over need has once again generated contradictions between those whose economic survival is dependent upon an industry continuously sucking profit from their sweat, and those outside the industry who find the methods of production a threat to their ecological survival.

By muddling within the bounds of production for profit, these conflicts appear to be "natural" and therefore terminal. But when fellow workers begin demanding production FOR THOSE WHO PRODUCE, these conflicts will melt in the face of real solutions.

Approximately 35% of the federal timber sales in western Oregon have been blocked by US courts to protect ancient forests. No matter how the issue is resolved, timber companies have already reaped great benefits. Today, more than ever, the timber industry is an unbreakable bond between employers and workers. Loggers are out in the woods risking their safety in one of the most dangerous occupations around. In return, they are continuously laid-off at the whim of their bosses. And there's not a mill worker in Oregon whose wages have kept up with the cost of living for many years. Still, in the minds of many workers, the enemy is NOT the employers whose ONLY INTEREST is to suck as much profit ("productivity") out of them as possible, but rather the environmen-

talists who seem so insensitive to their plight.

Jobs in the timber industry have been decreasing over the last ten years even though harvest levels have increased. Once again, more profitable methods are replacing human labor. In addition, there is a decreasing timber supply. Not long ago, timber corporations were basically self-sufficient, harvesting the bulk of timber on their lands. However, they have cut much of their timber and now must rely heavily on Federal timber.

The legal blockage of vast amounts of Federal timber has dramatically brought to the forefront the problem of decreasing timber supplies in the future. A Dallas-based corporation Prez put it rather bluntly: "it's not a question of whether its going to be reduced.... The handwriting's on the wall."

Perhaps that's why this corporation is diversifying its annual profits of \$86 million into other industries such as chemicals, fast food, and hardware. History has consistently shown that employers will take their profits and run either to another industry, or more resource-rich areas across the globe (a la Amazon Forest). Meanwhile, workers are left to enlist in the Army of the Unemployed.

The timber issue is being addressed without the most important participant, those who do the work. As long as profits will continue to be buried under "complex" issues that are indeed unsolvable.

Timber companies have NEVER practiced real sustainable harvest. Less than 75 years ago, the Mecca of timber production was in the Great Lakes states. Profit does NOT CALL FOR SUCH PRACTICES. On the other hand, environmentalists lend sympathy to workers but offer no solutions.

When fellow workers in this and other industries realize that the employer is nothing but a leech on their backs, we will forge ahead with real solutions. TimberFOREVER. It doesn't spell profits, but its a goal we CAN live with!

John Smith

Of Interest



To Unionists

R.A.W. Deal for Migrant Labor

Begun on Sept. 1 and due to run until Nov. 30, the US Replenishment Agricultural Worker program, known as R.A.W., was set up to create a pool of Mexican workers to relieve any worker shortages on US farms between 1990 and 1993. The program was included in the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 after farmers and growers expressed fears that the legislation could create a shortage of migrant workers. Nearly 1.3 million people, more than 80% of them Mexicans, applied for "special agricultural worker" status in 1988, but many are believed to have abandoned agriculture for less arduous work in factories and service industries as soon as they legalized their status in the US. Uncertainty as to whether there is any shortage in migrant farm workers and whether any workers registered under the RAW program will be called to any work openings on US farms has caused confusion in both the US and Mexico. Some Mexican and American government officials, as well as immigration experts in both countries, assert that American farmer and grower groups are actively encouraging the misunderstandings to create a labor surplus that would drive down farm wages. In the meantime, con artists and job sharks are taking advantage of potential applicants, promising them special treatment and guaranteed access to the US. One Mexico City company, calling itself the US International Immigration Services, requires a \$500 advance payment from all applicants and \$2,500 from their wages if they are selected.

Teachers Wildcat in Utah

In mid September, when the Utah state legislature approved a \$38 million tax cut because of the state's surplus this year, but provided no new money for the nation's most crowded public school system, Utah teachers acted honorably: they struck in protest. The walkout began with a wildcat strike Friday, Sept. 22, by teachers in the Salt Lake City, Ogden and Provo areas. Saturday the teachers' union, which represents 90% of Utah's teachers, called for a state wide strike. On Monday, all but two school districts in the sparsely populated northeast corner of the state were shut down as nearly 20,000 teachers struck.

Utah ranks 50th in spending on education, with an average annual expenditure per student of \$2,326. Teachers average salary is \$22,621 a year, lower than those in 43 other states. The state, with 1.7 million people, has the nation's highest percentage of school-age children, 37% of the population under 18 years old. With a student-teacher ratio of 25.4 to 1, Utah also has the nation's most crowded classrooms.

Peugeot Workers Find Concessions Not Easily Undone

On September 4, 14,000 workers at the Peugeot automobile group began a two week walkout, timed just as the company was planning to launch the new Peugeot 605 to rival BMW and Mercedes-Benz luxury cars. The strike began at an auto plant in Mulhouse in eastern France when workers wildcatted, unhappy about the 3.5% wage increases they were scheduled to receive this year, after the inadequate 3% raise they got last year at a time of soaring company profits. After PSA, the parent company of Peugeot and Citroen, nearly went bankrupt between 1980 and 1984, the company had net earnings last year of \$1.34 billion on revenues of \$21 billion. Profits were up 32% from 1987, while reve-

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Wobs in Action

San Francisco

Our Branch is currently launching four distinct organizing drives. Several hours to the south, two student Wobs at the University of California Santa Barbara are poised to organize the student workers there. Meanwhile, in the heart of the capitalist beast, the financial district of San Francisco, we have an organizer courting the bicycle messengers. The messengers, with their death-defying antics and outrageous lifestyle, are natural Wobblies.

Now that the proposal, by members in Toronto, to create a sex trade workers Industrial Union (IU 6900) has passed at Convention and is going to the membership for referendum, there is some movement in the branch to work on this project locally as well. We have several contacts in the industry here, where there already has been some organization.

And, finally, in a project inspired by Toronto's organizing, several worker-owned collectives have been approached about the possibilities of affiliating with the IWW as independent Job Shop Branches.

We have also had workers from two different non-profit canvasses express interest in the union. In addition, we've had inquiries about affiliation from a self-managed software collective, and a collective of peace activists who travel around the country providing logistical support for direct actionists. This push to organize in the Bay Area reflects our beliefs that union strength is directly tied to the size and militancy of our membership. In unity there is strength.

We have begun sketching plans for a ceremonial scattering of Joe Hill's ashes next year, possibly on May Day (Tuesday, May 1st) 1990 at People's Park in Berkeley. Ideally, it would be great to coordinate with other groups and branches internationally to make May Day 1990 an event to remember. Personally, I'd like to see us declare a one-day general strike (in protest of EVERYTHING) and in support of the demand for a SIX-HOUR DAY (which creates full employment thereby eliminating competition between workers). This is my personal proposal and not necessarily the position of the Branch.

We are planning to schedule a meeting soon with members of Workers' Solidarity Alliance (WSA). Mike Kolhoff, a WSA member and editor of the S.F.-based Anarchist Labor Bulletin, has been working with us to set up a potluck and chance for dialogue. This should be a good opportunity for the ideologically-inclined to clarify these groups' roles and goals. This will continue a discussion begun at the Anarchist Conference in S.F. two months ago.

We sold lots of newspapers in early September at the Labor Council (AFLCIO) sponsored conference on organizing. At a workshop on "Organizing the Unorganized," I pointed out that that's largely ALL the IWW does, our two-card members not withstanding. At a City College class on Local Labor History, three of the 12 students are Wobblies. In fact, at the first session of this class, I met two fellow workers who had hitherto been but names on my mailing list.

I want to see every branch that's listed in the back of this newspaper give a branch report every month. Let's share stories!

By Jess Grant

Denver/Boulder

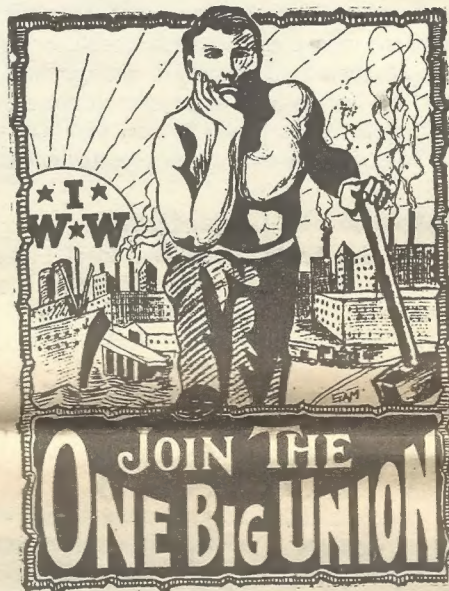
Four Denver-Boulder Wobs — Gary Cox, Brendan Ruiz, Joel Lewis, and Dave Frazer — attended the 1989 Convention. We came home feeling that it was a very productive and enervating convention. We're looking forward to a growth year for the Union in 1990 if the dues increase is passed by the membership or a financially disastrous year if it is not passed.

When we arrived home, Wobbly poet

Woody Hildebrandt had organized a two-hour debate on a local talk show about workers and the environment. Particular attention was paid to the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant. The debaters included labor representatives from Jobs with Justice; Mike Davidson, president of the USWA, which represents the Rocky Flats employees; a clown from the Republican Party representing the free market point of view; a local environmental activist; and Lowell May from the Denver-Boulder Branch of the IWW.

We are presently helping to prepare for a two-week art exhibit by Carlos Cortez, sponsored by a local Chicano art and cultural group, CHAC. Carlos, Chicago Wobbly artist, poet, and part-time hostel manager, will be busy while his art is on display, speaking at several locations, including local high schools and the Denver-Boulder Branch office.

We are also planning a speaking tour for striking Pittston miners in Denver during October. We have been joined in this project by the Denver area Jobs With Justice coalition, the Colorado Labor Forum, and the United Mine Workers of America. This tour



will begin on October 7th, with a presentation to the National Lawyers' Guild at their annual convention, followed by many talks to the Denver area unions, ending with a large rally and concert on October 21 at a union hall donated by local 68 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Gary Cox was invited to the September union meeting of Local 8 of the Mailers' Union to show the UMW video and talk to a packed union hall about his recent trip to the Virginia strike zone. Our branch has been supporting Local 8 for many months in their dispute with the Denver Post over a 50% wage cut.

In addition, several local Wobs are helping to plan a local town meeting in Broomfield, Colorado, on the dangers of the Rocky Flats plant. With our involvement, we do not think the workers should be treated like objects in this debate; they should be included as subjects.

Branch members Joel Lewis and Dennis DeMaio were recently arrested for leafletting one thousand employees at the Air Force Finance Center, inviting them to discuss their involvement in the financing of US atrocities in Central America. Joel says the meeting will be held — if he's not in jail.

Dexter Herda, Cliff Sunderstrom, and Lowell May are busy putting out the next issue of our local newsletter "What's Left." Write to our branch if you would like to subscribe. Donations are appreciated.

Lastly, the three graves that were purchased by the IWW at the time of the Columbine Massacre but were not needed, have been officially transferred from IWW ownership to local 5909 of the UMW. Gary Cox met with two officials from this retirees' local at the city hall in Lafayette in August to sign the papers.

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Ottawa

On August 27, a permanent camp for the homeless was established on Algonquin Indian land within the city of Ottawa, which is also claimed by the federal government. The Algonquins very kindly gave us permission to be here, but the government doesn't like to share.

Native Elder Wilf Pelletier led the circle in a strong medicine ceremony to open the refuge. Tents were put up and food was shared by about 45 persons. All the local media were there. A large banner read, "Life, Liberty, and Security of the Person," quoting from the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Jane Scarf, welfare rights advocate and new IWW member, told the media that she will not leave until the government lives up to its obligations and halts its war on the poor. At issue are a whole range of social service cutbacks, a new sales tax, and illegal government maneuvers, all deriving from the current re-structuring of the economy to suit the conditions of the Reagan-Mulroney trade deal. Included are welfare policy changes which would deny welfare to persons with a poor work history, persons who refuse to change their appearance or attitude to "enhance employability," persons who refuse to accept ANY job they are physically capable of doing, and persons on strike or locked out in a labour dispute.

By the third day, there were 3 tents and 8 residents at the new camp. Then the police came and confiscated the tents and the banner. Jane got a ticket for starting a fire without a permit.

Next morning, police again put out the fire and wrote a ticket. Park maintenance workers were called to remove the stones from around the fire. Later, a crew arrived to begin clearing away bushes where homeless people often sleep. But they left a big pile of branches just right for building lean-to shelters.

The following day, police came to arrest Jane on an old ticket (trespassing during a sit-in at a welfare office). She was bailed out for \$55 and returned to the camp the same evening.

On Friday, police put out the fire and seized a cooler, sleeping bags, a chair, and a sheet of plastic.

Saturday morning, police put out the fire, and this writer happened to be present when two police vehicles arrived at 11pm. They squirted the fire with a chemical, blasting glowing coals all over the place. They wrote Jane another ticket and checked everybody out on their computers to make sure none of us were a menace to society. Then they called the park workers to take away the stones and the lean-to.

Jane and her supporters always explain things to the police and they are not hostile. The park workers offer friendly advice. One policeman told Jane that as long as we stay out of sight, they'll leave us alone. But that is exactly the problem — the rich are content to pretend the homeless and the poor don't exist, as long as they don't see them. And the homeless people are so used to hiding from the cops, most of them are afraid to come out in the open. But they stop by for food.

The governments hope we'll give up and go away; Jane has documentation for a "test case" against the powers of the Provincial government, and the Federal government is implicated. Both governments have just blown big bucks on a propaganda blitz to soften up the public for the axe. They're hoping to quickly sneak these changes through before people catch on.

Although this is mostly about welfare and the unemployed, it is very important to all workers. Where there is no welfare, employers can get away with any wages and working conditions they choose.

Mynor Variante



Building A Branch:

Tips from the Toronto Experience

You just got your "red card" in the mail. You now have the questionable honour of being the only Wobbly within a hundred miles.

You are taking on a heritage of militant working-class organizing, and you don't want to fall into the trap of being a do-nothing museum curator. Laying claim to this kind of heritage means you have to WORK for it, not just sit back and pay dues.

This was more or less what happened to me in January 1987. I had started a two-person worker co-op called Blackbird Design, and applied for shop status with the IWW. This shop would be an IWW beach-head in Toronto, Canada, from which a branch could be formed.

Once it was decided to have a shop delegate (a sort of steward), I applied to the General Office in Chicago for the proper credentials. These credentials showed that I had the duty to sign-up new members and collect dues money.

The first thing an IWW group must find, or make, is a social base, or a natural base of affinity beyond merely working at the same jobsite. This will be needed, both to weather job-site repression, and to provide a core group which can develop a joint understanding of what being a Wobbly really means.

This lesson was burned into our brains in 1988, when Valerie Roux, of the Ottawa IWW group, organized twenty workers at Crawley Films to encircle management as they were drinking their 8am coffees in the cafeteria. The workers were angry because paycheques had been bouncing for months, and now twenty had bounced at the same time. Due to this action, and Valerie's phone calls to the media, the president of the multinational arrived several hours later — straight from the bank — with a sack of money. Everyone got paid. However, those who had stood up to confront the bosses, now either quit or became meek employees again. One woman, who had loudly supported Valerie when they had stood side-by-side during confrontations with management, would no longer greet or look at Valerie in the halls; associating with a known "trouble-maker" like Valerie was now seen as a sure way to lose your job!

This experience makes it clear that lasting solidarity cannot be created out of temporary crisis. People cannot sustain interest on principle alone, there must be a relationship between humans that has some feeling and passion in it. Normal people go to the wall for their FRIENDS; it's only ideologues who sacrifice solely for principle.

This search for an already existing affinity grouping brought focus to the Catholic Worker community (a form of Christian Anarchism) that has strong ties to two projects: the Angelus House (a "house of hospitality" for poor people without shelter or friends) and the "Grievous Angels" (a folk and country music group with a clear working class bias). Although most Toronto Wobs had little use for Catholicism in any form, it was clear that a living community of diverse elements were working together in an atmosphere of great love and solidarity. This model continues to inspire many in the Toronto Branch to this day.

Three important lessons were learned in terms of the tactics of intentional communities. We learned that much can be gained by allying with an existing social infrastructure, regardless of differences in belief systems (e.g. the Catholic Workers have been able to inject strong anti-authoritarian concepts into a parish whose pro-Capitalist and pro-Pope attitudes would have otherwise gone unchallenged). It was also noted that the proximity of individuals to the territory on which projects were based, not only made interaction easier, but amplified interactions "exponentially," thus allowing (what would otherwise be) small initiatives to take on a life of their own. Thirdly, we learned that although a group cannot exist for long without actions

in context with its purpose, we were surprised by the great satisfaction and solidarity that arose when IWW actions were undertaken that did not at first glance have much to do with union organizing: playing pool, painting and clean-up parties, pot-luck dinners, musical performances, and anything else that one would normally do with one's friends.

In looking at our growing membership and general support base, it was clear that most lived and worked in the Kensington Market area; a fact we must translate into projects that are specific to this area. In moving away from actions aimed largely at others like ourselves, we will have the key to break out of the generational, predominantly white, politico-culture in which we are dangerously immersed.

um, like the one that took Western society from the orthodoxy of McCarthyism to mass mobilizations against the American government's role in South-east Asia in a single decade. Happily, the limelight is shared by a vast network of progressive currents and organizations which encompass more issues, and involve more of the general public, than at any time in human history.

The Appeal of the IWW

As my generation moves into its mid-twenties, we are finding ourselves in a collective crisis; the realities outside our protest culture are weighing heavy on our ideals. We were pairing off, babies were appearing, trades and careers were being developed almost unconsciously. Adulthood, you know, tends to do this.



Toronto Branch as a Youth Ghetto

There is no question that the common anarchistic beliefs and culture of the post-punk generation has been a strong point of self-identification among the Toronto Branch. This has been a solid foundation on which to build the Branch, and it will no doubt furnish some of the best organizers for years to come.

However, it remains to be seen whether the Toronto branch can grow beyond this. What is seen as building blocks of solidarity to the builders, can appear mighty close to a "defensive wall" by those outside the process.

This generation was radicalized through the anti-missile protests of the early '80s. The strongest articulation and organization came from the anarchists, rather than Leninists of past generations. This is true not only in Toronto, but across Canada, the U.S., Western and Eastern Europe, and elsewhere. Find a punk band, and you will find at least some level of this political culture. The international aspect of this generation is as great, and the numbers are as numerous, as anything that happened in the sixties, but the media have not legitimated the generation with daily coverage.

This is for various reasons, among them a deep-seated distrust of the whole media spectacle, and the fact that this youth movement did not occur in an unsupported vac-

I remember, after years of preparing leaflets and information papers, suddenly realizing that I was a typesetter and graphic designer; that these had become my (de facto) trades. My partners in Blackbird are all committed radicals, yet they, too, have begun fussing over the spacing between typeset characters. All of us are increasingly perceiving the world through our skills and trades.

One night, I was being driven across town by a dear friend (and Wobbly); he was speaking earnestly about revolution and anarchy, when I suddenly noticed that, as he talked, he would strain his neck to look at various arrays of lighting. I asked him if he was thinking about the wiring on these lights, given that he almost had his Electrician's papers, to which he laughed and confirmed my suspicions.

This is the essence of our crisis: a protest culture which has always thought of the 40 hours of wage-slavery every week as being separate from their protest work, and an indignity that is endured so that their REAL interests can be pursued. Yet these political events are usually held on weekends — when people aren't at work; and the meetings to plan these events are held in the evening — when people are not at work.

The IWW can be the first step to resolving this head-on collision between high ideals and the daily grind of being a wage-slave. It was a ready-made vehicle to take our ideals

to work. We finally had a forum for learning how to organize on-the-job, and for adopting not only a wish for revolution, but a loose methodology for making it happen.

Most importantly, the IWW had an answer to the question of how society could continue AFTER THE REVOLUTION, without power plants exploding, poisonous gases filling the skies, plagues breaking out, and starving crowds rampaging in the streets. These are questions which never seem to enter the calculations of most radicals of my generation.

It is absolutely crucial for such concepts to be reclaimed by the resurrected anti-authoritarian movement. The very idea of non-hierarchical organizing was banished from thinkable thought for 60-odd years. This was largely thanks to the Leninists. Now that Political Parties are no longer seen as the sole form of revolutionary organization, we can lay claim to a rich heritage from which to draw strength and inspiration.

As the only living link with anti-authoritarian mass movements, the IWW has tremendous appeal to a whole generation coming of age, who are repulsed by the Authoritarian Left, and eager to claim their roots.

Organizing the Toronto Branch

From the beginning, we were intensely concerned about gender balance. It is hardly encouraging to be the only woman to walk into a meeting of 16 men. Such balance, once lost, can be a tremendous struggle to regenerate.

This is particularly true of labour organizations. Only about 17% of Canadian union members are women; personally, I had thought that this was largely because of male power-games within these unions. Yet, few of my women friends could imagine any use for a creature like the IWW, and even though our branch had twice the female members of the regular unions, only a handful of these participated regularly.

The number one reason for this lies in the socially accepted idea that women's labour is not valuable, and therefore, economic resistance is a thing done by men through (their) unions. This, of course, is bullshit: the unpaid labour of millions of housewives is the backbone of our economy, not steel, or corn, or oil.

There were some things that could be dealt with, though, like having our meetings in a central, well-lit, public location, instead of the dingy warehouse that had been our meeting hall. Or like doing solidarity work around those industries where women have become the primary workers (primarily because they're not encouraged/allowed to work in other industries).

To facilitate the projects of the union, we moved towards an affinity-group structure for those members (i.e. almost everyone) who weren't a part of an IWW job-shop. In this way, a Delegate, appointed by the General Meeting, could keep in touch with up to ten other willing members for the purpose of information and dues collection, without having to go far outside her/his normal social groupings.

This all sounds great, but it assumes a level of reliability on the part of the Delegate that is seldom found, and that, most assuredly, includes the author.

The Delegates need more support than they have been given. One plan sets aside several hours on a Saturday or Sunday, half-way between formal General Meetings. A cafe or pub is chosen, in a central (and co-ed) location. The membership is made aware that their Delegate can be found at these social events, and that this also makes it a good time to pay dues. This should be a purely social time (although stories and debate can help set the agenda for the next General Meeting), and it should be comfortable and fun for any member who shows up.

This links Delegates with the membership, as well as allowing Delegates (and potential Delegates) to learn about signing-up new members, union responsibilities, and how to record dues money.

Communication is the single most important factor to the democratic running of the union. Make sure to mail those monthly Branch reports, with articles, minutes, and upcoming events (even if it is banged-out on an old typewriter) on a REGULAR basis,

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Toronto Experience

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usually monthly. If you can make it look attractive, that's fine, but it isn't worth sacrificing regularity.

Also, never underestimate the power of voice contact with members who were just looking for that extra boost to get them active.

Chose actions whose meaning is easy to see, around issues that are relevant to a larger community, and can involve as many others as possible. Such actions should have a clear beginning and end; one that can be accomplished even if some members don't come through on their promises. This last factor can be minimized by having clear "job descriptions" that act as a check-list for members, with responsibilities and time-lines in writing.

Even if you do it alone: DO SOMETHING! Action is why people join the IWW. No action, No IWW.

This is a point learned from the Toronto Branch more from bad example than good. When we organized to do picket-line support, or singing, or protest marching, morale was great and we were filled with a sense of mission. Most of the time, though, we muddled along without such gung-ho attitudes.

True, much of our time was spent learning, from scratch, what it meant to be a

Wobbly. No doubt we are more solid in our convictions because of this exploration, but so much more could have been learned if we had jumped into a struggle with both feet.

The Toronto Branch appears to be headed toward two constituencies in the near future, both of which we have a fair bit of experience with: worker co-ops, and anti-poverty organizing. Unionizing co-operatives can align resources and skills towards anti-poverty projects. Also, the particularly extreme conditions found in anti-poverty work, can provide an on-going training ground for new IWWs to learn a level of smarts that will be at a premium when we take on heavier workplace organizing.

Finally, the involvement of union militants from other unions is also a priority, because our Branch has little regular union experience. Without these "Two-cards," the Toronto Branch will likely get massacred the moment it tries to do heavy union organizing.

Assuming the Toronto Branch gets serious about acting on our strengths and overcoming our weaknesses, I see nothing holding us back except our own insecurity. There is NOTHING like the IWW in Toronto, and the interest in our potential is huge; now, can we get all those interested dabblers to take a risk and join up? And if they make that leap of faith, will we stand beside them in common struggle, or stay at home and pay dues by mail?

Ted Dymont



Seattle Farmworkers

On Saturday, July 23rd, over 100 farm workers from Eastern Washington came to Seattle to rally support for the United Farm Workers of Washington State (UFWWS) boycott of Stimson Lane wines. They were joined by Tomas Villanueva (President of the UFWWS), church, labor and community leaders of 30 endorsing organizations, including the Church Council of Greater Seattle, the Washington state Democratic Party and striking unions, in a broad show of solidarity for farm workers' right to organize collectively.

Waving red and black banners and signs, the trademark of the farm worker union movement, farm workers and supporters marched to the Seattle Center where thousands were participating in the Bite of Seattle festivities. Their presence was a reminder that 50,000 farm workers in Washington state, who harvest the food and drink for our tables, do not have the legal right to organize. The intent of the march was to draw attention to Chateau Ste. Michelle's (CSM) refusal to recognize the request of its field labor for a free and fair union election and representation through such a union.

Exclusion by Design

In the early 1930's farm workers were exempted from every major piece of social legislation of the New Deal — The Fair Labor Standards Act, the Social Security Act, the Occupational Health and Safety Act, and the National Labor Relations Act. As a result, farm workers were excluded from laws guaranteeing a minimum wage, social security, unemployment insurance, management recognition of unions, health and safety standards, and protection against child labor. At the time, farmers were a powerful lobby and most agricultural laborers were black.

President Franklin Roosevelt, in order to win support for the New Deal from Southern congressmen, paid the price by excluding farm workers from these significant pieces of legislation.

Closing Labor Law Loopholes

Over the last three years, Tomas Villanueva lobbied in Olympia on behalf of farm workers. The result was successful, as farm workers received new legal protections, closing several labor law loopholes. In 1988, they were included in the state minimum wage initiative passed by Washington's citizenry. In the 1989 legislative session, farm workers were successful in gathering the support of labor and special interest groups. This resulted in a unique power-play between the Democratic-controlled House and the Republican-controlled Senate during the timely Alar [pesticide] scare that resulted in a bill package that guarantees farm workers inclusion in state unemployment compensation privileges. They received the right to establish rules to regulate meals and rest breaks and child labor protections. In addition, a "right-to-know" pesticide regulation bill covering reporting and safety guidelines was established.

More to be Done

This year is the 50th anniversary of the "Grapes of Wrath." In 1939, John Steinbeck revealed the most disadvantaged and exploited group in America — the farm workers. We've heard it all before.

The power-plays, long dealt from the hip pocket of agribusiness, must end. Grassroots support for Washington state farm workers is growing. The boycott was initiated by the UFWWS against Stimson Lane wines in

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Michigan Wobs Join Pittston Convoy

On September 8, a group of S.E. Michigan Wobs travelled in a 200-plus car caravan from Taylor, Michigan to the striking coal miners' "Camp Solidarity" in southwestern Virginia. The venture had been organized by the UAW to send spiritual and financial support to the UMWA in their (over) five-month long strike. The enormous strength of unity I saw among the miners, their families and community, as well as the groups of workers from around the country who travelled to the area to show their support was truly inspirational.

Driving along the highway through the night, I began to sense how important the strike is in these times. Friends had reminded me before I left that coal miners have a tradition of militancy and that the things they are now struggling for are the same as those of more than a century ago. But their tactics today, while no less militant, have been much less violent. Seeing the endless trail of tail-lights before us and headlights in the rear-view mirror, I felt like part of an army, creeping through the back lines with reinforcements and supplies. But the reinforcements were "ordinary" people from Michigan and the supplies were moral support, money, and union solidarity.

Before leaving Michigan, I told a lot of people where I was going. Some of them did not even know about the strike since news coverage had been (and still is!) scant. However, as we neared our destination, the prominence of the strike became more apparent. At a toll booth in southern West Virginia, just outside Virginia, I asked a man where a bathroom was. He pointed to a door and asked where we were headed. I told him Castlewood, for the strike. "What strike?" he said sarcastically with a grimace. I laughed and said, "Yeah, what strike!" knowing that if someone in Michigan had asked me that same question I would have had to explain. Inside Virginia, we were greeted with waves, thumbs-up, honking horns, victory signs, and plenty of smiles from people in front yards and passing cars. These simple gestures not only welcomed us but also pointed to the fact that it is not just the miners, but the entire community which is fighting for their future.

About a hundred miners and their families welcomed us into Camp Solidarity clapping their hands, banging pots and pans, and holding banners. After we all had a chance to recover from 18 hours on the road, a few speeches were given and then food was put out for us all to eat. After lunch, we had a few hours to rest, shower, swim in the river, sit and talk with other travellers and with some of the miners. Periodically, about once every hour, the calm of the mountain atmosphere was broken by screeching metal as a train of about 15 cars heaped with coal chugged through the camp. To me, this was an annoying (not to mention ironic) symbol of why we were all there, but the miners must have grown accustomed to the noisy interruption and did not seem to notice.

As dinnertime approached, two of us went into the camp kitchen to give a hand getting dinner ready. Everybody was busy carrying

food outside. When we offered to help, a few of the women sort of shrugged their shoulders and suggested we come back later, indicating there was not much for us to do. I could not imagine how such a small number of people could prepare food for such a large group, but they did. Although at first glance it appeared that the people in the kitchen were mostly women, I did see a lot of the men helping out by carrying stuff, wiping off tables, and cooking and serving the food. Everyone appeared to be doing something, nobody looked disgruntled with their roles, and it did not appear that anybody was "in charge". I later learned that large groups of supporter had been visiting the camp at least once a week, so the strikers must have worked out some sort of system for feeding everyone. Even still, it would seem that people would be worn out from five months of interactions with so many different people. But they showed no signs of letting up.

If anything, they seemed to be gaining energy. One of the most amazing signs of this energy was the dessert table at dinner that night. There were two long tables, each at least six-by-three feet, laden with the tastiest looking homemade desserts I have ever seen. "Wow! Who made all these?" I asked a woman as my eyes popped out of my head. "Different people," she answered with a smile, handing me another plate to fill. "This is incredible!" I said. "I've never seen so many desserts all at the same time!" Before I could stop myself, I had filled two plates with pieces of cakes and pies and other gooey delights. In the culture I grew up in, food has traditionally been a way of coming together and sharing. I knew a lot of time and care went into baking those treats. I felt truly welcomed to the camp as I ate dessert that evening, and I think it was then that I understood the appropriateness of the name "Camp Solidarity".

Shortly after dinner, everybody drove to St. Paul, a town about 10 miles away from camp, for a rally of over 5,000 people from all over the country, including UAW members, Teamsters, Eastern Airline pilots and machinists, Wobblies, and local strike supporters.

The rally began with local and visiting musicians singing union songs, both old and new. One woman gave a truly moving performance of "Amazing Grace". Those who spoke that night are leaders of some of the unions that were represented, including Owen Bieber, president of the UAW, and Richard Trumka, president of the United Mine Workers of America. They all spoke of ideas familiar to the IWW, such as one big union of all workers. Brotherhood, sisterhood, and solidarity were common words. The president of UAW District 1-A presented the miners' union with a check for over \$120,000, which will be used to help the miners' kids with the costs of books and supplies for school.

One speaker brought two girls on the platform, both of them miners' daughters who had walked out of school with other

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1989 IWW General Convention in Chicago

Thesomewhat funky, somewhat surreal setting of Theater Oobleck in Chicago was the site for the 46th IWW Convention, on September 2-3, which brought together an energetic group of about forty Wobblies committed to rebuilding our union. Branch reports from across the union show a heightened level of organizing in California, Ann Arbor, Toronto, and Colorado with organizing drives among recyclers, co-op workers, and lumber mill workers.

The pre-convention activities began early on Thursday and Friday when five members of the General Executive Board met with the General Secretary Treasurer and the staff to

General Secretary-Treasurer Report to the 1989 Convention

I want to talk to you this morning about the state of the union. Where we're at now and where we're going. We need to talk together about organizing — how this union can make a difference in people's everyday life, how the union can grow — and about money. You're going to hear a lot this weekend about money.

The union is at a crossroads. The union can fade or it can grow. It's up to us to make the choices and take the risks.

If it fades out I'm not going to be the last Wobbly. I won't be the one who turns out the lights and turns everything over to the archives. I'm not a flame keeper.

The union can fade or it can grow. Growth is up to us. We have to spread the sparks — not keep the flame. It's up to us to build networks of resistance that are alive with Wobbly energy.

In listening to you all, on the phone, in the mail, when we meet ... what we — Ingrid Kock and I — as union staff hear listening to you is a union looking at itself. Looking at the times we're in. Looking for ways to make a difference in the world and in the future and in everyday life.

The board and staff have been meeting the past two days. Meeting together and working on some of the pieces of where the union is going and how to get there and what resources we need and where to put our energy. These meetings have been held in a spirit of understanding and of cooperativeness. And that's good.

You are going to hear requests for help from the branches. So think about your branch and what kind of projects it can take on. Maybe your branch can take on a small union-wide project. Maybe a large one. Is your branch large enough, strong enough, does it have enough internal solidarity, does it work together well enough to take on a project with union-wide responsibilities? Could your branch produce the newspaper? The GOB? Those things can move. Could your branch actively support having the office in your town? Would these kinds of projects help build your branch? Or squash it?

Take a look at your branch, take these questions home with you. It's time to take responsibility for decentralization.

We are here, all of us today, because we believe in the IWW. We are here because of what we share. Because of our common ground.

We are here because we share visions of a world where people can work together, cooperate. Where we working people govern our own lives, at the workplace and in our communities.

We are here because we share visions of a world without capitalism, without racism, without sexism.

We share visions of a society where the natural wilderness is respected and not killed. Where the wild within us is free, where our imaginations are free.

A world where the cities will be rebuilt, will be different. Where food, housing and decent, meaningful work are rights not privileges.

I ask you to remember what we share as we go through this weekend and to come

make decisions about an internal overhaul of the organization. This is the first time in many years that the group of people responsible for the General Administration of the union has gathered together to improve the workings of the organization.

Decisions made at those meetings include: to stop acting like an obscure anarchist leftist bookshop and to stock contemporary books and materials that will help workers in organizing; to buy new office equipment to improve our publications; and, most importantly, to increase contact with IWW delegates to lend support in their organizing and fundraising. Delegates and branches have

together with the different folks here on our common ground.

Though we meet on our common ground we are also different. We are different from each other in age, experiences and perspective. We need to appreciate our differences, learn and grow with them. Our differences are our strengths. Working together in difference is a source of strength.

And we need to change.

The union is too white. This must be changed.

The union is too male. This must be changed.

We need to welcome young people, include young people, listen to them and find ways for the risk taking, high energy of the young to work with the experience and skill that the older members have.

We need to include young people. If we don't, the union will fade. Members who have been around for awhile need to learn how to share what they know, give space for new involvement and pass the union on to a new generation in ways that are empowering, that nurture change. That build a response to the present that is rooted in the present.

And money.

You will notice in our financial reports that income — in particular dues income — is lower for the first six months of this year than in other recent six month periods.

We have identified the problem as a failure to fully monitor the delegate reporting and to gather in the dues. So we are making changes around that. We think the dues money is out there, we just haven't gone about it the right way in trying to collect it.

What we had been doing with delegates is putting people in touch with the resources we hear them asking for. Maybe it's advice about nuts and bolts organizing. Maybe networking within an IU, putting people organizing in food co-ops in touch with people who have experience doing that. And that work strengthens the union. We will continue to do it.

What we have not done, and will begin doing, is pushing the delegates to send the money in. We had presumed the delegate system works without pressure better than it really does. So we have created useful paper and computer file systems to keep the records and understand what is happening with dues and delegates.

We will be spending more time phoning and writing the delegates and branch secretaries. We'll listen, see what we can do to meet your needs. And we'll push harder for delegates and branches to help meet our needs. So that means more money and more regular reporting. But it also means more organizing. What many attend branch meetings and actions? How does your branch empower people?

This is an important time for our union. We have choices to make. This is the time to put up or shut up, listen to Lou Reed. "This is the time for action, the future is within reach... this is the time because there is no time ..." Let's try together to meet the challenges. Thank you.

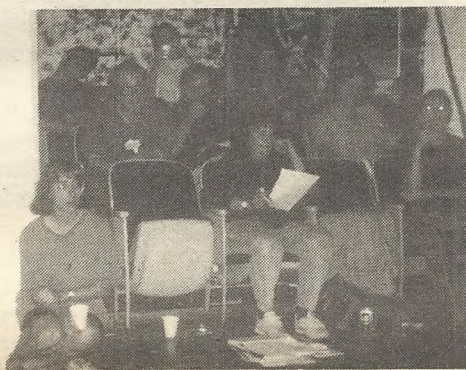
Jeff Ditz
Chicago Sept. 2, 1989

been sent information on how a branch can make a bid to take on production of the Industrial Worker. This move will allow the office staff more time for the crucial administration of the union.

Chicago branch support for the General Administration was also discussed at the meetings. The Chicago IWW branch is down to 5-7 active members. Some of these people have functioned as support people for the office for 10 years or more and some continue to serve on the Industrial Worker collective. Administrative support beyond this cannot be expected from the branch. Decentralization is going to be discussed more actively, including the possibility of moving GA. It's time to start looking for another location in Chicago or another branch willing to host the office outside Chicago. The souvenirs are gone. The only reason to come around now is to build the union.

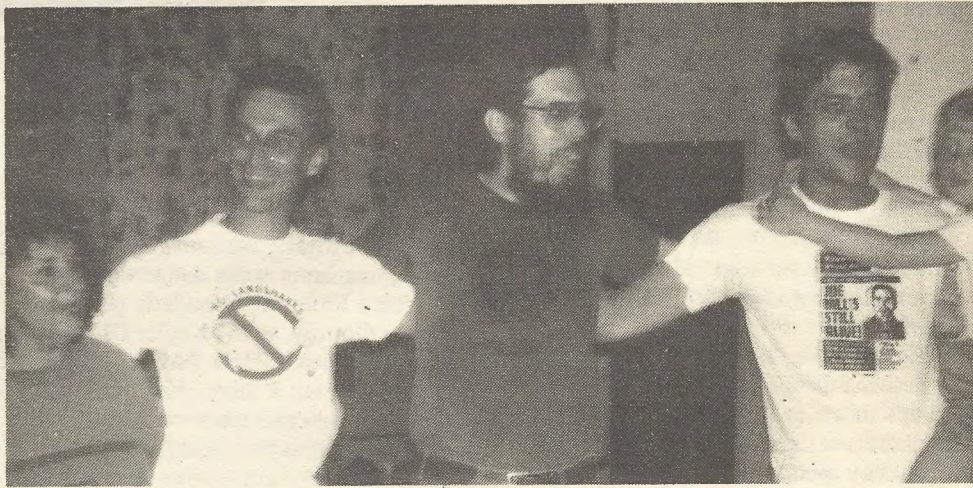
The convention itself started Saturday on an encouraging note with a rousing version of "There Is Power In the Union". Nobody can sing about solidarity better (or at least louder) than Wobblies!

Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer, Executive Board and Industrial Worker collective were given during a session chaired by Carlos Cortez. Instead of the customary electing of a "permanent convention chair" for the work sessions of the convention the



elected convention recording secretary (with help from Jerry Chernow of Madison). These wobs are under thirty five and relatively new to the union. The ease of the changing-of-the-guard bodes well for the ability of different wobbly generations to work together. The convention also showed itself to be flexible through its willingness to challenge tradition. The new wobs, many of whom come from activist backgrounds, showed facilitation and process skills that moved the convention along quickly and eliminated unnecessary discord while providing for all to be heard, and action to be taken.

On Saturday night, Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney, of IWW-Earth First! Local 1 (the name of their band) sang labor and environmental songs. The two had flown in from Northern California to talk about their mill-organizing project. There's fertile ground



group chose to elect Jess Grant (San Francisco), and Julia Goode (Madison) as co-facilitators. Moe Fitzsimons (Ann Arbor) was for workers to organize at lumber mills in Northern California because the push to clear-cut the last of the Redwoods forces workers into overtime and unsafe working conditions with a lack of support from mainstream unions. It is becoming clear to the lumber workers that their jobs and communities will vanish along with the trees. Judi expressed the links between radical environmentalism and unionism and demystified Earth First! by explaining the difference between its rank-and-file and the unofficial hierarchy.

While most partied at Theater Oobleck, several others were subjected to another form of entertainment and were confined to the office for eight hours to hear charges that had been levied by Jon Bekken against GST's Jeff Ditz and Paul Poulos. Both sets of charges were dismissed and these dismissals were endorsed by convention. Many people, on the committee and in the convention, were frustrated with the charges because they took too much time away from other important union work, and were thought to be petty and divisive.

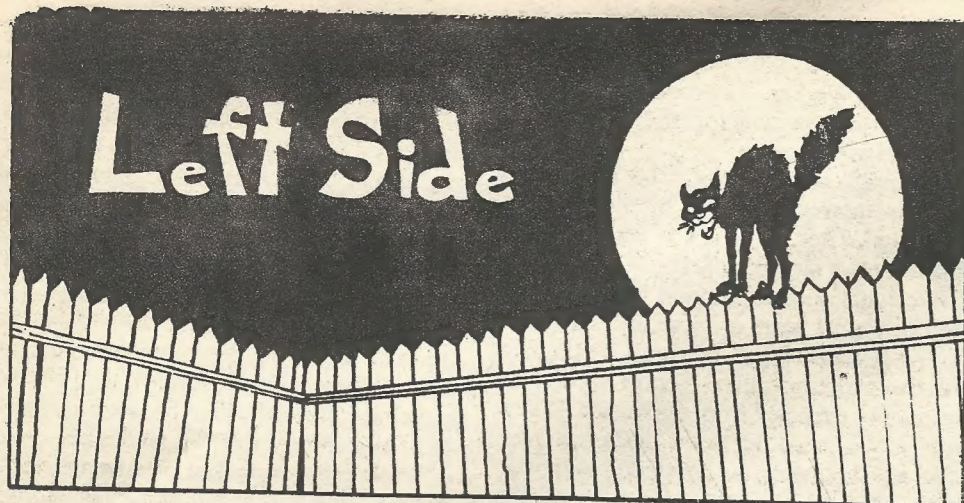
Resolutions brought forward by branches on sexual harassment, organizing sex-trade workers, and open membership/confidentiality requirements as well as the decisions made by the General Executive Board to revitalize the union were discussed by committees on Saturday and Sunday will proceed to referendum, where, it is hoped, more discussion from the membership will move the members concerns to resolution.

The convention showed that we still have some struggling to go through as a union. People of color go virtually unrepresented in the IWW. Women did make up nearly half of the convention for the first time. Women continue to be under-represented in the membership as a whole. Some deviant male behavior (monopolizing the discussions, swearing, etc.) continues to define discussion. There aren't yet adequate forums within the organization to address issues of racism and sexism formally though informal channels are opening.

The barroom sessions, smoke-filled rooms (the last in the U.S.?), clashes and resolutions, red t-shirts, and songs evoke the heart and soul of the IWW. We are a struggling and determined union. Many sense a reawakening in the North American working class and foresee a time when the renewed energy of our ranks will make the IWW impossible to ignore.

SPECIAL THANKS: to the folks at Theater Oobleck. Readers of the IW should check out Ooblecks anarcho-feminist theatrical offerings when in Chicago.





Apparently, Freedomland officials, like their counterparts in other parts of the World, feel that they are protected by some unwritten statute of limitation, or just plain rely upon the television attention-span of the most of us in admitting their boo-boos a quarter century after the fact. Nevertheless, one such official has admitted to losing a hydrogen bomb somewhere off the coast of Okinawa, which is located near the heavily populated Asian mainland. A jet plane, carrying the bomb, accidentally rolled off the deck of one of Freedomland's aircraft carriers, losing both pilot and bomb in waters 16,000 feet deep.

The Japanese people, including the Okinawans, are quite upset over such gross incompetence, especially since these people who are familiar with the corrosive effect of salt water and pressure of the deep know that it is only a matter of time before the radioactivity of the bomb is released. According to the environmental group Greenpeace, "at least nine nuclear reactors and forty-eight nuclear warheads have sunk in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, where pressure and corrosion may eventually release their radioactivity."

With such incompetence on the part of our military "protectors," it is high time that the rest of us denizens of this planet start getting upset. Somehow, those of us whose apathy enables these military experts to live high off the hog should get together and find some way of rendering these experts a little more harmless, even if they have to be rendered into axle grease.

This aforementioned item should make it quite obvious that "military expertise" has no place in the development of human progress. The only role of a militarist is a destructive one. To the military mind, creativity does not exist and is only capable of acknowledging someone else's achievements as something to be negated or destroyed. To the militarists, the rest of his fellow humans are only tools with which to achieve his own ends.

In soliciting the support of his fellow humans, the militarist can only appeal to their basest tendencies under a thin guise of patriotism. Under the motivation of patriotism, any manner of excess can be indulged in, including rape and infanticide.

To give one example, Bram Dykstra, in his volume, "Idols of Perversity," writes: "The 'woman who wants to be raped' theory is an integral part of the overall self-serving pattern of the rationalization of aggression which still dominates the World today, and which was crucial to the development of the imperialist mentality at the turn of the century."

Furthermore, the militarists are nothing more than miserable vassals to the economic powers that they happen to live under. The scoundrels of the age, along with their rulers and money-men, have been lauded to us poor working stiffs as historical personages and valiant fighters. The real "valiant" fighters, like Spartacus, Wat Tyler, or Emiliano Zapata, rate short notice in the official history books, if any notice is given at all. If the names

survive, it is mainly through the time-honored, if not always accurate, path of oral history.

One such name, not even mentioned in official chronicles, is that of "Chuy" Malverde, a "bandito" who was hanged 80 years ago, in northern Mexico. Like Pancho Villa, he raided the coffers of the rich landowners to distribute to the downtrodden peones of his own class. In fact, in the city of Culiacan, Sinaloa, where he was strung up, a shrine has been built to his memory. People still come to this shrine, leaving votive offerings to him in return for whatever good fortune comes their way. Bumper stickers extol his virtues, businesses are named after him, and a popular corrido rates him second only to Dios himself.

It is a redeeming trait of our species that we have a way of immortalizing those whom the official historians chose, not only to ignore, but do their best to obliterate mention of humanity's true historical figures.

Just the other day, your scribe found a letter, addressed to him at the editorial offices, from one he had not seen for many years. It was from a colleague of his whom he had met in a federal correctional institution during World War Two and who, like himself, had chosen to spend a few years behind bars rather than to participate in any military adventure. Being warmly greeted, and told he was glad to see that your humble scribe had not become "respectable" with the passing of years, he enclosed a newsletter that he publishes and distributes, on his own limited resources, named "Voice From the Woods."

This newsletter has many pithy comments and is well worth sending a donation for. He tells of how the Gorilla who, in defending his territory, will stand on his hind legs, beat on his chest, and advance with threatening gestures. But if one stands one's ground, Mr. Gorilla will merely find more important things to do, a thing which modern nation-state military apparently do not have the common sense to do.

This newsletter further tells about computers replacing human beings, giving the annoying necessity of having correct change on hand for a parking lot that doesn't use any human attendants, and asks the question: "Will computers become consumers?" He says that the best way to keep out foreign invaders is to have a populace that ignores its own bureaucrats. Such a country would be a poor place to take over and may even give the occupying army some dangerous ideas.

Voice From the Woods is published by Walter Gormly, at 761 Kepler Drive, Mount Vernon, Iowa 52314. No subscription is mentioned, but I think if a contribution to cover postage and labor were sent, it could result in a lifetime subscription. While my old buddy may not be eye to eye with me ideologically, I can assure you that he is one Hell of a scrapper. Some half a century ago, we both agreed on this one motto: "Draftees of the World Unite! You have nothing to lose but your generals!"

C.C. Redcloud

Southern Tenant Farmers' Union Founder H.L. Mitchell Dies

Harry Leland Mitchell died in Montgomery, Alabama on August 1. Better known as "Mitch," he co-founded and led the radical Southern Tenant Farmers Union (STFU). For nearly 70 years he brought wit, grace and tenacity to struggles for justice, black-white unity and socialism.

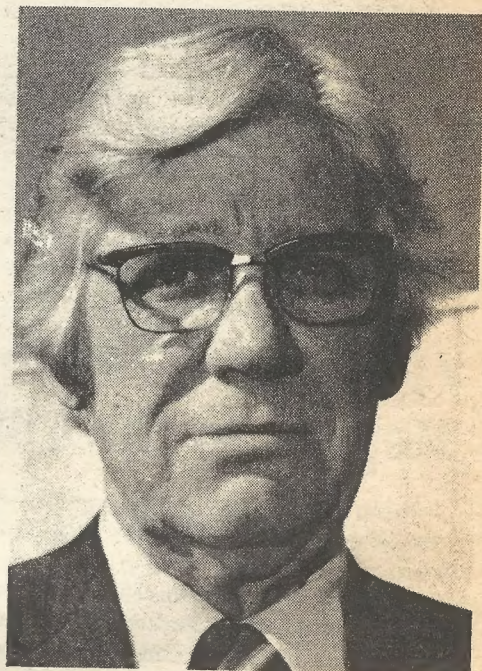
Born in Halls, Tenn., in 1906, Mitchell witnessed a grisly lynching in 1917 and throughout his teens was deeply concerned with moral and social questions. He heard his first socialist speech in Moscow ("Moscow, Tennessee, that is," he always enjoyed adding) in 1920. His education, largely gotten through the Kansas-based Little Blue Books series, and his work experiences, beginning in the fields at age eight, helped make Mitchell an active campaigner for Eugene V. Debs almost as soon as he heard the socialist message.

Mitchell worked as a bootlegger, sharecropper, dry cleaner, and suit salesperson in the 1920s, but found his true calling in July 1934 when he, with ten other whites and seven blacks met south of Tyrone, Arkansas, to found the STFU. At that time, independent organization by the poor of either race was rare enough in the South, and biracial organization virtually unheard of. Mitchell served as the STFU's first Executive Secretary and helped the union attract 31,000 members, mostly cotton plantation workers, by 1938.

The STFU fought against both starvation wages and evictions of tenant farmers. It won strikes for 75 cents per hundredweight for cotton pickers in 1935 and lost an epic struggle for a ten-hour day and a \$1.50 minimum wage the following year. Not only did new land clearance and drainage technologies and low cotton prices threaten tenants, but government policy, especially during the early New Deal, encouraged the removal of tenants by paying plantation owners, but not tenants, for not farming. To further complicate matters, the local police, any local vigilantes and the National Guard harassed the STFU, which was baited for its socialism and its "race-mixing."

Amidst such obstacles, and in part because of them, the STFU became a remarkably inventive and militant union, and Mitchell an especially flexible and democratic labor leader. He combined mass pressure and lobbying to win concessions from Arkansas judges and New Deal politicians. Rank-and-file initiatives abounded. In 1939, Mitchell was in New York City fundraising when sharecroppers in Missouri's Bootheel region undertook the most spectacular of the STFU's actions, moving onto public highways in a "sit-down" or "live-in" protest against evictions. The protests, plus Mitchell's vigorous lobbying, caused a sudden surge of interest by New Dealers in public housing in southeast Missouri and hundreds of homes were built in Delmo housing cooperatives.

The STFU weakened after 1939, victimized by AFL/CIO infighting and by the general decline of tenancy. Mitchell served as a special assistant to the administration on the National Youth Administration in 1939 and 1940, and worked briefly as an International Ladies Garment Workers Union organizer in 1940. He returned to the STFU as Secretary and became President of its successor organization, the National Farm Labor Union (NFLU), in 1946. From 1948 to 1961 he served, with his wife Dorothy, as the union's two-person lobbying staff. The NFLU led



major strikes among California farm laborers in the years after World War II and organized sugarcane workers and fishers in Louisiana in the 1950s.

In recent years Mitchell wrote, lectured and organized extensively to preserve farm labor history as leader of the STFU Association. He spoke to countless audiences, especially on college campuses, usually driving great distances for minimal compensation. He wrote a lively autobiography *Mean Things Happening in This Land* (Allanheld, Osmum, 1979) and an outstanding pictorial history of the STFU, *Roll the Union On* (Kerr, 1987). He engineered the production of the excellent recent film *Our Land Too: The Legacy of the STFU* (available from Kudzu Films/4415 Evangel Circle/Huntsville, AL 36105).

Rarely did Mitchell miss a chance to impart wisdom. He regarded the lesson "No compromise on the race question" as a historic contribution of the STFU, which he proudly saw a forerunner of both the civil rights movement and the United Farm Workers. A master of sharp comebacks, he replied to the Moral Majority's attack on "humanists" by pointing out that he liked the label and thought it was a "damned good thing to be." Mitchell believed in eighties what he did in teens, and what we also believe. As an STFU slogan put it: "To the disinherited belongs the future." He was never a Wobbly, but credited Covington Hall with contributing many IWW ideas to the early STFU, which often ran articles straight from the *Industrial Worker* in its press.

Mitchell expected to live to 100 and hoped to have his ashes spread in eastern Arkansas, so he could continue to haunt the bosses there and cause them to say, "There goes that damn Mitchell again." Those who are inclined to pray for the dead, and/or to fight like hell for the living, might remember Mitch with the final words of the STFU's "Ceremony of the Land":

"Speed now the day when the plains, the hills and all the wealth thereof shall be the people's own, and free men shall not live as tenants of men on the earth which Thou has given to all. Enable us humbly and reverently, with clean hands and hearts, to prepare ourselves for the day when we shall be Thy tenants alone and help us become faithful keepers of one another and of Thy good earth — our home."

Peugeot Workers

Continued from Page 4

nues rose 17%. In the light of this the Communist labor federation has called for a 15% wage increase. "We're trailing the increases in the cost of living," said Claude Grillat, a shop steward at the Mulhouse plant. "We were asked to tighten our belts, but now we think it time for us to share in the company's turnaround."

In mid-September Jacques Calvet, the chairperson of PSA outraged the strikers by stating on a TV interview that "there was no deterioration of the social climate" at Peugeot and calling for Japanese style "consensus and lucidity" in the future. On September 18, 1000 Mulhouse workers took a train to Paris to demonstrate outside PSA headquarters, with many of them demanding the chairperson's resignation. After the demon-

stration, several union representatives met informally with PSA officials, but the unions report the company still refused to negotiate seriously. About 2000 of the 12,000 workers have walked out of the Mulhouse plant, shutting most of the production there. About half of the 24,000 workers at Sochaux, Peugeot's largest plant have walked out. The strike has not yet spread to any Citroen plants. Because of PSA's prominence as France's

largest private-sector company, French unions and corporations are closely watching the showdown as a gauge of future wage patterns. Roger Fauroux, the Minister of Industry in the country's nominally socialist government, has come out against the strikers. "There is everything to fear from wages (and workers? — ed. comment) getting out of control," he said; sentiments an open capitalist could not have bettered.



Pacific Lumber mill. Notice the old growth redwood that fills a whole truck.

Timber Wars

Continued from Page 3

includes two references to sabotage. The song became the most requested song on the local country music station as the millworkers called in for it and sold tapes of it in Potter Valley. Shortly after the mill closed, three men (who were definitely NOT Earth First!ers) tried — unsuccessfully — to torch the new chip mill with a molotov cocktail.

Role of the IWW

So, while the environmental struggle is raging, and while the public is watching loggers bashing owls, the flames of discontent are slowly igniting among the workers. What's needed is some direction, and it's certainly not coming from the AFL unions. Earth First! is still leading the battle in the woods, but Earth First! can only do so much because it is not a workers' organization.

Historically, it was the IWW who broke the stranglehold of the timber barons on the loggers and millworkers in the nineteen teens. The ruling class fought back with brutality, and eventually crushed the IWW, settling instead for the more cooperative Business Unions. Now the companies are back in total control, only this time they're taking down not only the workers but the earth as well. This, to me, is what the IWW-Earth First! link is really about.

Direct Action

Continued from Page 1

The day after the board meeting twenty Wobblies held a rally gathering outside the building to sing "Power in the Union" and "Solidarity Forever" in the sunshine. The boss tried to watch but was scared away by obvious solidarity and energy of the workers. Demonstrations of solidarity have been occurring daily and will continue everyday until the contract is settled.

The key issues being contested by management are the workers rights to participate in decision making and the equal wage structure for all bargaining unit jobs. However, at this writing the management has yet to even offer a wage proposal or present a coherent alternative to the worker participation clauses in the contract. Participatory management and an egalitarian wage were won in the first contract five years ago and the Wobs are unwilling to surrender them.

The unfair labor practices committed fall into three categories, intimidation of workers, contract violations and bad faith bargaining.

Intimidation of workers has occurred through unannounced locker searches, by misuse of the peer evaluation system to discipline new hires and union militants and through a chronic failure to inform new employees of contractual rights, and the policies and procedures for job performance.

Secondly management has directly violated the contract. Policies and procedures have been selectively enforced. Excessive use of temporary employees has undermined the wage scale. Management has refused to make financial statements available to union negotiators and there has been a general failure to abide by the grievance procedure.

Third, management has been bargaining in bad faith. The management has failed to abide by the mutually agreed upon "getting to yes" model for negotiations. Management has canceled numerous negotiations sessions,

If the IWW would like to be more than a historical society, it seems to me that the time is right to organize again in timber. This is not to diminish those active locals and organizers who are already involved in workplace struggles elsewhere, but to the point out that organizing in basic industry would strengthen us all. We are in the process of starting an IWW branch in northern California, and some of the millworkers are interested in joining already. But the few of us who share these views here can't do it by ourselves, especially since the most prominent of us are known to all the timber companies as Earth First!ers and can't get a job on the inside.

Back in the glory days, the IWW used to call on "all footloose Wobblies" to go get jobs in places the IWW was trying to organize. I'd like to make the same appeal now, to come to the Pacific Northwest and work in the mills and woods. Anyone wishing to take on this task should contact me at Earth First!, 106 West Standley St., Ukiah, CA 95482, (707)468-1660. Please take care to avoid using your identity, home address, or exact plans. Your Red Card number will suffice as identification (which can be verified through the General Office). Remember, this is no game.

Judi Bari

ostensibly to prepare bargaining proposals which have yet to appear. Management negotiators have yet to offer a compensation package after five and a half months of negotiations. Management negotiators have presented several negotiating proposals only to withdraw them after acceptance by the union. And finally the management negotiators have failed to directly answer a single proposal offered by the union in contract talks.

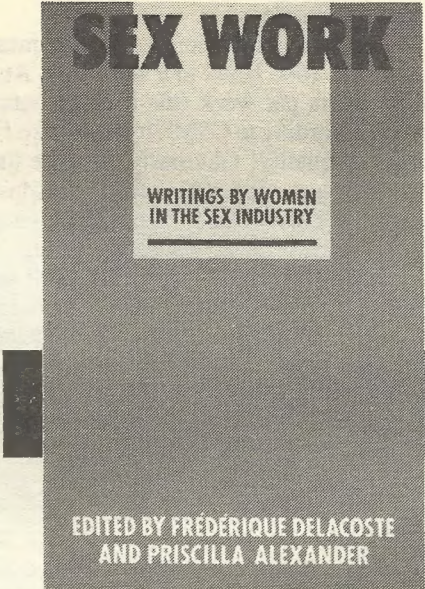
It is still the hope of the Peoples Wherehouse job branch membership that a strike can be avoided by good faith negotiations on the part of the MFFC. But time is running out, and it appears that management wants to push the union into a confrontation. As you read this the Wherehouse Wobs may already have walked out. That so many unfair labor practices have been committed against the union will guarantee the rights of strikers to their jobs, and insure that all scabs will be dismissed.

In all of this, the negotiators for the IWW felt a confidence in the strength of their local branch as never before. There is more unity among the workers than ever before. All efforts to divide them have backfired and the workers have a degree of solidarity that cannot be beaten.

As this article goes to press, news has reached us of significant breakthroughs in negotiations. The daily demonstrations of solidarity and tactics of direct action have compelled the management negotiators to make real movement and the union's needs are close to being met. Negotiations are now progressing rapidly as the October deadline approaches. At the same time the management has found a new resolve to respect the rights of the workers and the integrity of the contract. Direct action gets satisfaction.

Mike Hill

As we go to press, a tentative contract has been reached.



Review: Sex Work: Writings by Women in the Sex Industry

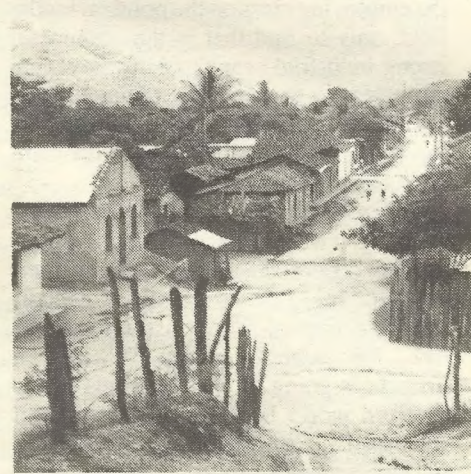
Published by Cleis Press,
PO Box 8933,
Pittsburgh PA 15221
Price: \$10.95 (plus 15% shipping and handling)

I was enraged by this book. I was enraged at the humiliation and terror that millions of my sisters endure, and I raged at myself for being so powerless to aid them. If anyone still doubts the need for sex trade workers to organize within the IWW, this book will convince even the coldest heart to bend in solidarity with these super-exploited comrades.

I hasten to add that, despite the disturbing levels of violence that are a constant in most of their lives, this book also describes the resistance to oppression and the struggle for dignity within their working lives. This is not a book about losers looking for pity; it is about daily acts of courage by real women labouring without protection in a huge industry that will continue to be a fundamental part of our society for the foreseeable future — whether the reader likes it or not.

The first half of this 1987 classic, consists of 45 short stories about the personal experiences of women in the industry. Each acts like a passing window into different aspects of the sex trade; the sum of which evokes a great and conflicting turbulence of emotions. The editors have used this seething mass of confessions as a truthful representation of all the pride, shame, uncertainty, bitterness, anger, celebration, courage, and compassion that restores humanity to this most grossly misunderstood profession.

It is no exaggeration to say that a full comprehension of women's oppression can not be had until the powerful archetype of "The Whore" is as familiar as "The Ma-



Joe Hill in Nicaragua!

In the village of El Jicaro, some 8 kilometres from where comrade Sandino himself was born, the ashes of Joe Hill were scattered on July 16 of this year. Located in Nicaragua's Segovia Mountains, El Jicaro has long been on the forefront of the Sandinista revolution and provided a beautiful and timely place for Fellow Worker Jack Myers of the South-west Ohio Branch of the IWW to set Joe free.

At approximately 6:00am, on a misty mountain morning, FW Myers, accompa-

donna." To break this ancient and evil dichotomy, and render ourselves able to love outside of its shadow is the underlying theme of this book. This is accomplished by humanizing the "fallen" women through their own words, and then articulating both the symbolic role of the prostitute in our society, and then prescribing a solution to this disease which, to a lesser or greater extent, affects us all.

The prescription of the editors is ORGANIZATION. The second half of the book, after several powerful feminist critiques of prostitution — including a detailed statistical debunking of the supposed role of prostitutes in the spread of AIDS, and an essay on the intertwining herstory of lesbians and prostitutes — concludes with highly practical information about how to organize and the groups that can be joined (with addresses included).

In this last section, we see the great strides that have already been taken towards self-organization, defense, and building external support. Here are documented the views of Women Hurt in Systems of Prostitution Engaged in Revolt (Whisper), the English Collective of Prostitutes, U.S. PROstitutes Collective, Coyote/National Task Force on Prostitution, the Red Thread, and mention of the Alliance for the Safety of Prostitutes, and Canadians Organized for the Rights of Prostitutes, plus many more. A sampling of the strong differences of opinion that separate some of these groups is clear in these writings; the editors leave the reader with as great a sense of variety in the opinions of prostitute associations, as they did with the personal stories of the first section.

The book concludes with the statements from the International Committee for Prostitutes' Rights World Charter and the World Whores' Congress, held in Brussels in October 1986. These represent a good crash-course on the issues and problems facing sex trade workers and all who ally with them.

In terms of what could have been further included, there is little to say, as this is a very tight compilation. Perhaps the role of male prostitutes should have been expanded, given that all men stand to gain an insight on their own sexuality for the same reasons all women can learn from their sisters in the street. Also, given the average beginning age of sixteen years, an insight into the world of "baby flesh" would be a strong argument, all in itself, for the legal self-organization of the only force that can reach and offer choice to the millions of children we have discarded. Also, the class and racial prejudice permeating the sex trade offer a rallying point for potential allies that was not stated as strongly as it could have been.

This easy-to-read and absorbing book should be a required primer for anyone attempting to grasp the real and archetypal chains that bind our sisters, both in the sex trade and without. In freeing them from what only exists in our minds, we not only free ourselves, but are better prepared to join with them in the the emancipation of all.

Ted Dymont



nied with Cindy and Steve Minton, conducted a simple ceremony attended by a handful of the residents of El Jicaro, including the former mayor of 8 years and longtime revolutionary, Pedro Torrez.

As Sandino himself was a Wobbly back in his days as a Vera Cruz oilfield worker, comrade Torrez appreciated who Joe Hill was and was seriously moved by the ceremony. More information on Joe Hill and the IWW was requested (anyone knowing of ANY spanish-language IWW literature is urged to contact the S-W Ohio Branch).

By X330416

Farmworkers

Continued from Page 6

April, 1987. Boycotts are a legitimate way of saying that the best way of dealing with certain people or companies is to not deal with them at all. By persuading people to impose their own moral and ethical standards when spending their money, a message is being sent to that company whose products are being boycotted.

You are encouraged to make a personal pledge to boycott all wines under the Stimson Lane label until such time that CSM agrees to allow a free and fair union election, and negotiates in good faith a collective bargaining agreement.

Do not drink or buy:
Chateau Ste. Michelle
Columbia Crest
Farron Ridge
V.M. Whitby
Conn Creek
Villa Mt. Eden

Labor Dispute Background

The labor dispute between Chateau Ste. Michelle management and their agricultural laborers began in March, 1987. Ten farm workers registered written complaints regarding wage reductions and poor working conditions. They were fired. As a result, 45 of the 55 workers requested assistance from the UFWWS in addressing their grievances to the CSM management. CSM subsequently responded by firing another three employees and refusing union overtures for a union election. Under threat of legal action, these employees were reinstated.

Agricultural labor has historically been the poorest of the working poor. CSM professes to be a leader in their employee package, offering a seemingly progressive set of benefits. Upon closer scrutiny, however, what the company gives it can take away without prior consultation or negotiation with their agricultural employees.

Some examples:

1) To qualify for benefits, a worker must accumulate 1600 hours in a work year. At a full 34 hours per week (the average hours worked according to CSM), it would take 11 months to qualify! Obviously, because the grape harvest depends on a seasonal workforce, only a small number of farm workers actually qualify for the benefits.

2) In 1987, wages were reduced from \$6.00 per hour to \$5.25 unilaterally, without warning or consultation with the workers. Field labor rates start at \$4.50 per hour and increase to \$5.00 per hour after 30 days. The basic rate of pay then remains the same for a certain job classification, regardless of experience or years with the company. The average tenure of CSM vineyard employees is four years.

3) Few women are employed full-time and so, most do not qualify for benefits, even though some have been part-time employees since 1979.

UFWWS Background

The UFWWS was founded in September, 1986, to stop the discrimination, abuse and exploitation of the farm worker. 1400 farm workers are members of the union. The UFWWS under the leadership of Tomas Villanueva has been highly influential in Eastern Washington providing assistance to ALL farm workers to collect unpaid wages and benefits, to mediate in disputes and make legal referrals.

Write to U.S. Tobacco (CSM's parent company) and Chateau Ste. Michelle and let them know how you feel and that you support the boycott. They need to hear from you. Their addresses are:

Richard A Kohlberger,
VP, U.S. Tobacco
100 West Putnam Ave. Greenwich, CT 06830
phone: 203-661-1100

Allen C. Shoup,
Pres. Chateau Ste. Michelle
One Stimson Lane, Woodinville, WA 98072
206-488-1133

Rita Thornber

Seattle Supports UFWWS

The Seattle General Membership branch of the IWW has officially endorsed the boycott of Chateau Ste. Michelle and all other Stimson Lane wines called by the United Farm Workers of Washington State. The branch has been working with the Farm Workers Support Task Force of the Church Council of Greater Seattle in building public support for the boycott. We are currently leafletting at Puget Consumers' Co-op stores in order to persuade the co-op to remove the wine from the shelves. This is our first target store locally. We shall move on to others once we have won a victory at the co-op.

Stimson Lane wines are marketed all over North America. To build an effective boycott campaign, we need help from IWW members and supporters everywhere. If these wines are being sold in your area, you can play an active role in the Washington farm workers' fight for justice.

We will supply you, or your branch, with information and materials for the boycott campaign. Contact us at: Seattle IWW, PO Box 20402, Seattle, WA 98102. Let's show our solidarity with Washington State farm workers!

Stan Anderson

THE RELEVANCE OF ANARCHISM TO MODERN SOCIETY



SAM DOLGOFF

Review: Relevance of Anarchism to Modern Society

By Sam Dolgoff

Paperback: \$2.00

Library Binding: \$12.95

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1740 West Greenleaf Avenue, Suite #7
Chicago, Illinois 60626

and the classic anarchism of Bakunin, Kropotkin, Malatesta and the Spanish unionists. He stresses that true anarchism needs intense organization among the working class.

The simple truth is brought out that if people do not organize themselves they will be regimented from on top by some bureaucracy using any one of a number of names. In expediting the possibility of an anarchist society, there has to be a strong move to decentralization. Centralization by its very nature necessitates a bureaucratic structure to insure its perpetuation.

Decentralization does not mean putting the chicken back into the egg or to divide humanity up into small isolated groups. Decentralization means more direct control at the point of production by those who are most familiar with the particular production process. There can no longer be small isolated communities but each community can still be autonomous in its local affairs and with its interchange with other communities and the world at large.

The basic idea of classic anarchism is that of anarcho-syndicalism where all facets of society from production to distribution and communication would be under the direct control of the workers engaged in those sectors, rather than under the direction of some distantly removed bureaucrat.

Sam points out how many sectors of present day class society have been decentralizing for the sake of their own efficiency. Even an establishment economist such as John Kenneth Galbraith writes that in giant industrial corporations autonomy is necessary for both small decisions and large questions of policy but of course we know who those are that he intends to make such decisions.

Both the capitalist economists of the "Free World" and the "socialist" countries need decentralization for the sake of administrative efficiency. There lies the main reason for the Perestroika reforms that are being advocated by Soviet Premier Gorbachev.

The anarchism that Sam Dolgoff writes about is basically the unionism as practiced by the Confederacion Nacional del Trabajo in Spain which was only subdued by the combined efforts of Fascist, Soviet and capitalist military powers. It is also very much the same principles of working-class solidarity that brought about the founding of the IWW in Chicago in 1905. It was Fred Thompson who pointed out that much of humanity's problems come from too many decisions affecting too many people being made by far too few.

While Fred Thompson was a socialist and Sam Dolgoff is an anarchist, it is in the IWW that these two great thinkers found common ground. This modest booklet, small in size but great in scope is a valuable addition to any class conscious worker's book shelf.

Carlos Cortez

The IWW Preamble Its Contemporary Relevance

The Working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world unite as a class, take possession of the earth and the machinery of production, and abolish the wage system.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping to defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interests of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system."

It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for the everyday struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially, we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

Every issue of this newspaper reprints the IWW Preamble, a venerable document drafted at the IWW's founding Convention in 1905, and which has remained unaltered ever since our 1908 Convention. In just a few short paragraphs the Preamble explains the principles that bind us together, and to which we are dedicated.

But there have been a lot of changes in the world, and in industry, since 1908. Corporations now operate on a scale that, eight decades ago, would have been unimaginable. New technologies offer the potential to throw millions out of work—or, if reshaped and controlled by an organized working class, could enable us to drastically reduce our hours of labor and enjoy the good things of life. And, since 1905 workers have successfully battled the employing class on the political battlefield, only to find that in the absence of strong industrial organizations they were powerless to prevent the continuation of capitalism as usual—or the institution of "socialist" dictatorships which left them as enslaved as ever.

When the labor movement was first organizing, it was not uncommon for unions to adopt official statements declaring their commitment to the overthrow of capitalism. The original 1886 constitution of the AFL, for example, reads: "Whereas a struggle is going on in all nations of the civilized world between oppressors and oppressed..., a struggle between capitalist and laborer which grows in intensity from year to year and will work disastrous results to toiling millions if they are not combined for mutual protection and benefit..."

The Declaration of Principles of the Metal Workers of America went further, contending that "the entire abolition of the present system of society can alone emancipate the workers, to be replaced by a new system based on cooperative organization of production in a free society." These declarations were the result of workers' widespread recognition that under capital-

ism they could not hope to establish decent conditions on the job or in society, and could not hope for the dignity and freedom which ought to be every person's by right.

In the intervening years, many of the most militant unions were crushed by injunctions, murder, mass arrests, deportations, blacklisting, etc. All too often, the conservative trade unions of the American Federation of Labor and kindred organizations aided the capitalists in their dirty work by scabbing on these militant workers, or by launching dual organizations in order to undermine their unity and to defeat their struggles. Other unions were taken over by corrupt officials, and transformed into the safe and ineffectual law-abiding organizations that afflict the labor movement today.

Of the North American revolutionary labor organizations that flourished at the turn of the century, only the Industrial Workers of the World survives to carry on the battle to emancipate the working class and bring industry under the control of those who do the world's work. While there are stirrings from an increasingly restive and militant rank-and-file—and many heroic strikes—the IWW remains alone in proposing that workers organize industrially not merely to win better conditions today, but to do away with capitalism altogether.

Some have argued that such ideas are anachronistic, that the IWW and its Preamble are hopelessly behind the times. Others contend that these ideas—the ideas upon which our organization was founded—are too extreme to win workers' sympathy, and are thus an impediment to organizing.

Such critics are sadly mistaken. The IWW Preamble is neither obsolete nor extreme—rather it presents a straightforward critique of the reformist strategies which have so strikingly failed our class, and outlines a practical program for transforming our society.

By Jon Bekken

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from IWW Branches

Total Enclosed